

Next is a statement by the Dominion Secretary of the Great War Veterans' Association, as published in the Ottawa Citizen of December 30, 1918. The extract follows:

Generous usage returning men receives praise.

The Dominion Secretary of G.W.V.A. says Gratuity Order will give every soldier a splendid chance.

Mr. R. M. Stewart, Dominion Secretary-Treasurer of the Great War Veterans' Association of Canada, when asked for his opinion of the War Service Gratuity authorized by Order in Council P.C. 3165, made the following statement:

"I consider the Government is to be congratulated upon having taken such generous action, which means that the men of the returning army will be placed in an independent position for a sufficient length of time after their discharge to enable them to find the employment for which they are most suited, and which is most suitable to them.

"A married man, or a man with dependents, will be in receipt of an income of not less than \$100 per month for a period of six, five, four or three months after his discharge according to the length of his service.

"A single man will be in receipt of an income of not less than \$70 per month for a period of six, five, four or three months after his discharge according to the length of his service.

"Men already discharged, who have seen service in an actual theatre of war, also benefit fully by the provisions of the Order in Council.

"Therefore, without taking into account the considerable balance of deferred pay which a majority of the returning men have to their credit, it can safely be said that no returned soldier, who is willing and able to work, will suffer any hardship whatever upon his return to Canada. He will not be a suppliant for labour, forced to accept unsuitable employment at low wages in order to ward off privation. He will be able to choose employment where the remuneration will be commensurate with his ability and the services he performs.

"In this matter Canada has treated her soldiers and sailors more generously than any other nation, and no one can complain of unfairness.

"The allowance is in fact much more generous than we ever anticipated it would be."

May I now draw attention to the further steps Canada has taken to reestablish the returned soldier in civil life.

1. In addition to the grants which the Government has made by way of War Service Gratuity to assist returned soldiers the

Government has already accepted full responsibility for:—

(a) Providing pensions for the widows and dependents of the gallant men who have given their lives for their country.

(b) Providing pensions, according to the degree of their disability, for the men who have been wholly or partially disabled in the service of their country.

(c) The retraining of those who have been wholly or partially disabled from engaging in their former occupation, so as to fit them for useful employment in some new occupation.

(d) Assisting the returned soldier, when demobilized, to secure suitable and useful employment.

(e) Appropriate and adequate provision to enable returned soldiers who desire to do so, and who possess the necessary qualifications, to settle upon the land.

2. Legislation was passed last session dealing with the matters enumerated in paragraphs (a), (b) and (e) namely, pensions and soldiers' land settlement, and a Bill dealing with the work of the re-establishment of our soldiers in civil life and covering the matters enumerated in paragraphs (c) and (d) has already been introduced into the Senate. As, however, the Senate has adjourned till the 22nd of September, and as it is hoped that this session will be a short one, the Government has decided to introduce this Bill into the House of Commons at once, so that there may be ample opportunity to give full consideration to the matters covered by the Bill, and notice of its introduction appears on the Votes and Proceedings of yesterday. When the Bill reaches the committee stage it is the intention of the Government to move a reference of the Bill to a special committee of the House for consideration, as was done last session with the Pension Bill.

3. I now beg to submit to the House certain comparative statements showing the provision made by Canada, other portions of the Empire, and certain allied and other Governments, for pensions, the re-establishment of the soldier into civil life, and Land Settlement.