

### BENEFITTED BOTH PARTIES

General Discussion Between Canadian and American Teachers Crystallized Many Ideas

AS helpful to the Canadian officials as to the American visitors was the tour through Canada of the technical educators brought by the American Red Cross Institute recently to study Canada's methods of rehabilitating returned soldiers. The Canadian officers found that in teaching they were taught. Previously the individual officer, in many cases, had glimpsed only the realities within his own small sphere of action, but after one of the conferences with the Americans realization of the complete story of the rehabilitation effort was brought home to many. The necessity of expressing working principles in conversation with the visitors was also helpful in focalizing attention on vital points.

At the conclusion of the Toronto conference one of the American party summed up a few of the benefits of the conference. The following quotation from his remarks is very much to the point:

"This is a distinct and very unusual problem. And I suppose you find that to work out the problem it is quite necessary to focus your interest and your sympathy and energies upon the man; and, too, as you are endeavoring by an individual process to return him to industrial life and independence and, if possible, to bring into a banded and synthetic process all the influences of the community that can function helpfully to that one end—that whether it may be the manufacturer, or the labor organization, or the hospital or the technical school, or the trade school or the social worker, or the teacher or the church or whatever volunteers of society that touch the problem—it behooves them to forget some of their usual methods of procedure in order to get that flexibility and adaptability of the individual which will enable him to go through a sort of biological process from the military life back to the rebuilding and re-growth—a parturition—into industrial life. If you were to put clamps about him it would interfere with that high ideal and defeat the end you are seeking and, therefore, as workers in this great movement you realize that anything that would bring in restrictions and limitations and regulations and other great sacrifices of study ought really to be held in abeyance

until he is able to live as before, and that you must focus your whole interest in the man, to bring him back again."

Mr. W. E. Segsworth, the Dominion head of the Vocational Branch, included the following important comment in his contribution to the discussion:

"One of the central ideas in this work is to change the man back from a soldier into a civilian. What the man mainly wants is to work for a few hours at first and gradually progress up to the point where he is employed 7 or 8 hours a day. The man must have a short course of intensive training. He must get back to hard work and long hours and even be driven a little bit, because he has to go to that kind of work when he re-enters civilian life."

Dr. G. W. Graham, the Vocational Medical Officer for Ontario, also brought out the following points:

"The man, when we examine him medically before recommending a course of industrial re-education, sees as little of blank printed forms, of formality, of red tape as possible. We aim to get beneath the man's skin, to make him feel at ease as much as possible, to have a heart-to-talk with him in an intimate, off-hand manner. 'Would it be feasible to employ women for survey duties?' No, the returned man looks for a man-to-man talk. Speaking generally, he wishes to deal with the man who has been with him in France, knowing the trials he knows, speaking his language, and so able to sympathize with him."

### THE DANDELION

THE common dandelion (Taraxacum officinale, Weber), has long been recognized as a very noxious weed in lawns. Of recent years it has spread over grass and grain fields throughout most parts of this province. Where grass land is overrun with this pest, it should be brought under cultivation. If plowed thinly with a breaking plow during June, then backset as soon as the sod is rotted, this weed will largely disappear. If troublesome in cultivated land, a frequent summer fallow or planting to a hoed crop will destroy them.

Where a lawn is very badly infested, it should be broken and reseeded to some good lawn grass mixture. If there are only a few scattered plants, spudding out the top of the weeds with a stiff knife and then injecting a little coal oil or gasoline in the hole made by the knife will quickly kill the long deep tapering root of this plant.

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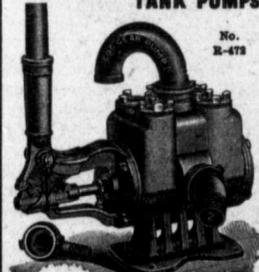
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