

INTRODUCTION.

The attached resolution, adopted by unanimous vote by the Dominion Convention of the Great War Veterans' of Canada on July 3, 1919, embodies the substance of Re-establishment not only for ex-members of the Overseas Military, Naval, Mercantile Marine and Air Forces, and their dependent next-of-kin, but for the entire Dominion of Canada. Apart from the financial aid which is advocated for the ex-member, of the Forces and their dependents, its very expenditure by them and upon them within Canada cannot but extend benefit to the entire commercial life of the country.

With the adoption of this resolution by a Convention of Delegates representing Veterans of the Great War now residing in every town and city of Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific, the fact was registered in no uncertain manner that practical Re-establishment, along the lines therein suggested, was a vital national necessity.

Since the paramount need of Re-establishment has been demonstrated by the Great War Veterans themselves, the next task which they have undertaken is to secure approbation to the plan by the citizens and Government of Canada, urging upon them the need for immediate action if the stability and happiness of our country is to be maintained.

A community as a whole fully realizes that it would be unfair to penalize over half a million Canadians who answered duty's call, by accepting the sacrifices which have been freely made in defence of our national honor, and then to permit them to shift for themselves after the victory has been won. Each one of that half million suffered either mental or physical disability, or both, the extent of which was increased and aggravated by the length and nature of the services rendered, so that upon their discharge from the Forces into civil life they must begin all over again the struggle for existence, saddled with a handicap of mental and physical disability which active service has imposed upon them.

It must also be recognized that those who served in the Great War, regardless of whether they suffered physically or not, have, by severance from their former pursuits, incurred a serious commercial disability which the helping hand of State Financial Aid can alleviate, and bring back to them a semblance of the position they enjoyed at the time of enlistment.

Notwithstanding the several schemes which have been brought into being to assist towards the Re-establishment of ex-members of the Forces into civil life, the greater percentage of whom are ineligible to receive their benefits, with the result that the country today is faced with the problem of efficient Re-establishment available and applicable to all, Financial Aid is a measure which can be dispensed to universally meet the needs of Re-establishment, and every ex-member of the Forces, male or female, and the dependent next-of-kin of those who have fallen, should be eligible therefor, should they desire to avail themselves of it.

Complete Re-establishment may be most quickly effected by State Financial Aid, when in the form of an equitable distribution it is made available to every ex-member of the Forces and the dependent next-of-kin of those who have died either whilst on service or after discharge therefrom.

Physical disabilities incurred whilst on active service are presumably compensated for by pension. It is a well-known fact that thousands who enlisted made enormous financial sacrifices in order to do so, never seeking to be reimbursed for their personal loss; and it is a fact that most of those same people are today facing a new start in life