

UNIVERSITIES AND EDUCATION OF THE SOLDIERS

Conference with Government at Which Important Suggestions Regarding Men who Went Overseas Were Put Forward.

MEETING AT OTTAWA

Every university in Canada which is entitled to representation in the Conference of Universities of the Dominion is ready and prepared to assist to the utmost of its abilities to provide educational facilities for all returned soldiers who desire and are capable of taking advantage of such facilities. The universities also are of the opinion that the Dominion Government should become responsible for the expense incurred by the universities in giving the returned men their education, or in completing courses which were interrupted by reason of the men enlisting.

These facts were brought out at an informal meeting held at the headquarters of the Repatriation Committee of the Dominion Government, which was attended by Sir Robert Falconer, president, University of Toronto; Dr. L. S. Klinck, president, University of British Columbia; Dr. Walter Murray, president, University of Saskatchewan; Prof. W. A. N. Kerr, University of Alberta; Dr. R. Bruce Taylor, president, Queen's University; Dr. J. A. Nicholson, registrar, McGill University; Dr. C. C. Jones, president, University of New Brunswick; Hon. J. A. Calder, chairman, Repatriation Committee; W. D. Tait, chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Great War Veterans Association; Col. F. P. Healy, Deputy Minister of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment; W. E. Segworth, Director of Vocational Training; Dr. George H. Locke, chief librarian, Toronto; H. J. Daly, Director of Repatriation; and Mr. Vincent Massey, secretary of the Repatriation Committee, who acted as chairman of the meeting.

The question of providing education for ex-soldiers at Canadian universities was thoroughly discussed, the sessions, lasting all day and evening, resulting in the passage of the following suggestions:—

1. That it is in the best interests both of the nation and of the returned soldiers that educational facilities be provided for all returned men who desire them and are deemed capable of taking advantage of such facilities; and that these facilities should be adequate to prepare them for the life or vocation which they intend to follow when they return to civil life, and that, in our belief, the universities are ready to assist to the utmost of their abilities.

2. That all persons whose university courses, including undergraduate or post-graduate work, were interrupted by enlistment, or any who are deemed capable of taking advantage of university facilities, should be granted the same

CLOSING UP WAR MISSION OF CANADA IN UNITED STATES.

Owing to the removal of many war trade restrictions on the transaction of business between Canada and the United States, the work of the Canadian War Mission at Washington is being steadily reduced.

Several of the members of the Mission have now returned to Canada, including Mr. Frank Rolph, who had been chairman of the Mission since Mr. Lloyd Harris went overseas; Mr. R. H. McMaster, of Montreal; and Mr. A. H. Scott, of Montreal. Sir Charles Gordon has been appointed acting chairman to succeed Mr. Rolph. It is necessary for Sir Charles Gordon, who has been acting for the Imperial Government for the past two years in purchasing materials and supplies in the United States, to remain there for several weeks yet closing up the business of the British War Mission, of which he was chairman. In addition to this work, he has consented to close up the affairs of the Canadian War Mission.

privileges as are now enjoyed by returned disabled soldiers.

3. That men should be selected by the Department of Civil Re-establishment, on the recommendation of the university or college concerned, such university or college being now entitled to representation in the Conference of the Universities of the Dominion.

4. That the Government of Canada should become responsible for the expense incurred by the universities in providing adequate preparatory instruction for the returned soldiers who have been accepted by the universities and the Civil Re-establishment Department.

5. That such training should not necessarily be limited to the duration of one academic year.

6. That the Government should be requested to take steps to have returned at the earliest possible moment all men whose university courses have been interrupted by enlistment, and all former teachers, instructors and professors for whose return application has been made.

7. That the Department of Labour should organize a special branch to deal with unemployment in the professional classes, and that its special duty should be to collect full information regarding all men who desire teaching and university appointments and regarding the appointments that may be available.

A committee was appointed to bring together representatives of every organization and profession interested in the problem of education, consisting of Sir Robert Falconer, Dr. Bruce Taylor, Dr. McLean, Dr. C. C. Jones, W. D. Tait, and Tom Moore, labour representative.

The resolutions passed at the meeting are suggestive only, and the problem raised has been submitted to the Government for consideration.

DESCRIBES COURSE GIVEN CANADIAN MEN WHILE IN ENGLAND

Not Scientific but to Familiarize Soldiers with Everyday Pursuits of Farm Life Before Settling Here.

PREPARATORY INSTRUCTION

That many Canadian soldiers are being taught agriculture in England during the interval between the end of the war and the return of the men to Canada, is the statement made by W. J. Black, B.S.A., Commissioner, Agricultural Instruction Act, who says that the Soldiers' Settlement Board are organizing training farms for soldiers in England. The statement is made in an article by Mr. Black in the current number of the Agricultural Gazette of Canada, published by the Department of Agriculture. According to the article, suitable farms are secured and equipped with Canadian machinery and appliances, and a short course of about three months in practical farm operations is available to soldiers.

"In no sense will the course be academic or scientific," writes Mr. Black. "It will rather be the aim to familiarize the men with the everyday pursuits of farm life and with the things which every man must be able to do reasonably well before he can start to till the soil. For example, such a course should teach a man how to harness, hitch up, and drive a horse; how to plough, cultivate and sow seed; how to milk a cow and care for and feed farm animals, and to perform the thousand and one manual operations that are inseparable from farm life."

INSTRUCTION COURSES.

At the request of the Soldier Settlement Board, Mr. Black outlined a course of training such as would be suitable for the preliminary instruction of inexperienced men, especially while idle in England awaiting their return to Canada. The plan of instruction drawn up was adopted by the Board. An outline of the course is as follows:—

The system of instruction adopted is in two parts, the first to be known as "preparatory instruction," and the second as "field instruction."

The preparatory instruction will include the necessary training and experience to enable a candidate to satisfy himself, on the one hand, whether farm life will be congenial, and will enable the Board to determine whether he has the necessary qualifications and is fitted in general to make a success of the farming business. After these points have been settled, the earlier an applicant for settlement can be placed on the land that is to become his future home the better for all concerned.

Field instruction is to be provided after settlement by instructors who have had special training for this work. The method employed will be somewhat similar to that now followed by certain provinces of Canada in locating trained agriculturists

OYSTER FISHERIES ON PACIFIC INCREASING

In 1917 the oyster fishery of the Pacific coast yielded 1,789 barrels, which is an increase of about 15 per cent over that of the previous year. Unlike the oyster fishery on the Atlantic coast the British Columbia shell fishery is increasing from year to year, according to the fifty-first report of the Fisheries Branch of the Department of the Naval Service, just issued. "In 1917 the catch of clams amounted to 11,998 barrels, an increase of 40 per cent over that of the preceding year. Half the catch was used fresh while the other half was canned. The catch of edible crabs amounted to 5,886 hundredweights valued at \$48,424."

SASKATCHEWAN TO START THRIFT CLUBS

The Saskatchewan Department of Education is heartily co-operating in the War Savings campaign. In a recent statement to the press, A. H. Ball, Deputy Minister of Education for that province, said that it was proposed to organize a Thrift club in every one of the 4,200 schools of the province and that inspectors would be instructed to pay especial attention to this matter. It is the intention to have each school board, as far as possible, advance at least \$10 to finance the sale of Thrift Stamps to scholars. One of the leading officials of the department is directing the organizing of the Thrift clubs.

Buy your boy a Thrift Stamp.

as agricultural representatives of Departments of Agriculture for the purpose of advising and aiding farmers in farm management. In this way settlers will have the benefit of expert advice and direction, while at the same time exercising their individuality and power of initiative.

During the winter months following the first summer's experience on the farm settlers will find it advisable to take the regular short course in agriculture given at the agricultural colleges or by the Departments of Agriculture at convenient points throughout the country.

As a means of providing candidates for settlement with the preparatory training they will require in the minimum amount of time and in the most efficient manner possible, two courses have been adopted, one to be known as "the practical farming course" and the second as "the institution course." Candidates will have the option of selecting either one of these courses.

The practical farming course includes instruction in the use of horses as motive power and also in the use of gas engines as power; farm machinery; building construction, carpentering and blacksmithing; farm management, including feeds and feeding, soils, cultivation and farm crops, live stock.

"It is the intention," concludes the article, "to inaugurate a follow-up scheme with the co-operation of provincial agricultural departments, whereby the men will be advised and instructed after they go upon the land. The plan contemplates the provision of local short courses dealing with the more advanced phases of instruction, similar to those now provided for farmers and farmers' sons by the local representatives of agricultural departments and by other extension services."