

irrespective of the differences which may divide them on other questions, are united in their desire to meet the obligations which we are under to the men who have served this country and the Empire; and that every honourable member of this House, no matter from what province or part of the country he may come, is determined that Canada shall discharge to the last limit the obligation which she owes to the men who have defended us.

I may say that when I gave notice of this motion, I had not had the opportunity of hearing the remarks of the honourable senator from Rigaud (Hon. Mr. Boyer). It was only afterwards that I learned that his mind and mine, so far as this important question is concerned, ran very much along the same line. We have in Canada a system of Experimental Farms which have furnished a large amount of experience and wisdom which is at the disposal of our farmers and which has brought to the country untold wealth. I believe that we can to-day utilize those same institutions in another direction to bring to us still more benefit and profit. I am aware that there is, in the minds of certain people who have spent their lives in cities, whether they have lived in a palace or a hovel, a prejudice against country life, and a dislike for the conditions that exist in the country. But, honourable gentlemen, I am convinced that if we can develop a certain branch of our Experimental Farms in such a way as to introduce into agricultural life men who have been temporarily maimed, men who through illness are unable to exercise the functions which they exercised before the war and are perhaps unable to resume their former occupations, but who with improved health and strength might be able and willing to engage in agriculture, even in a small way; and if this can be done we shall have accomplished a great deal for them and for Canada.

Now, it is not my intention to enter into the details of any plan. It is my desire simply to call the attention of the House to this matter and to ask for the appointment of a committee to consider it. I should like to see associated with each one of those Experimental Farms a building and organization—not a hut, but a comfortable, well regulated institution, in which would be received not men who should be in hospitals, but either men who are unable to engage in any other occupation or men who have indicated a desire to engage in farming

Hon. Mr. FOSTER.

and who would have an opportunity to learn there, as they could in no other way. I am aware that there is a disposition on the part of the Government, as has already been announced in the other House, to provide certain places to which these men can go; but that does not meet the idea which I have in my mind. It is not that these men shall be sent to be cared for in an institution simply because it is in the country; it is not that they shall be housed in hospitals where they can be properly attended to, and have nothing to do after they leave the doctors' care except to think of the horrors of the past and perhaps the horrors of the future. It is that they shall be so situated in everyday life that they will have an incentive to go out from one of those great institutions and take part in the development of a farm and have something to do besides thinking of their sad experiences. I believe, honourable gentlemen, that if we could create in one of these institutions a home such as I have described, and place in it some of those men who are to-day suffering in the cities, as all men must suffer who have been engaged in active life and find themselves with nothing to do—if we could take those men to any one of these farms, especially the one that I have in my mind, and make them comfortable and get them interested in the progress and development of that farm, it would be not only better for this country but infinitely better for every man who went into the institution. That being the case, it seems to me that it is our duty and the duty of this Government to consider carefully the question of the utilization of these farms along the line which I have indicated.

There is, honourable gentlemen, another feature to this matter. I hear that the Government are using and will continue to use every effort to develop as far as possible the agricultural industry of this country after the war, and for the benefit of the returned soldiers; but there is an aspect of that project to which I desire to call the attention of this House. My home is in the province of Quebec; and, notwithstanding what anybody may say concerning it, I love the province of Quebec. Loving the province of Quebec, I turn my eyes to the Experimental Farm on the bank of the beautiful river St. Francis at Lennoxville, where I see a chance to create a home for the men, French and English, who have gone from the province of Quebec and fought the battles of this Empire, and