

RECONSTRUCTION.

In Canada, and in Europe, there has been numerous expressions of opinion, hope, theory, and demand regarding the future—in books, articles, speeches, manifestations and declarations of parties and statesmen, labour leaders' aims, etc., especially during the deepening shadow of the past two years in the war.

It has been said that in such matters a fool's guess is as good as the wisest man's what the real influence of these opinions would be if the war were to end to-morrow, and whether they are right or not are debatable questions. In any case, they are "weather" signs that must be regarded in preparing for the future. They are indications of the state of the world's mind—or rather, indications that there is such a thing in process of formation. It the future disposition of the soldier now serving is under contemplation by those left behind, the question arises: Is the soldier going to stand for this; he has made a reconstruction possible, but for him there would be no future to figure out; therefore, the Tommy has got a say in his own future disposition. I believe that settlement after the war will succeed in proportion to its audacity. The reader we are to cut away from the rest, the better we shall succeed.

We must not be always thinking of getting back to where we were before the war. Get a really new world. To do this we must organise, and as military law will not allow a soldier to join any organization, we must leave our future to the discharged men; but, then again, without an assurance of our support after the war, the work they are doing now will be useless. I might say that a plan will shortly be put before the Canadian Government by the Great War Veteran's Association, which, if adopted, will overcome all difficulties, and every man wishing to do so will automatically on his discharge become a member of the G.W.V.A. Our power then will be unlimited, and will have in this organization the brain and muscle of Canada. I placed this scheme before the G.W.V.A. some weeks ago, and received the following reply:—

From the Great War Veterans' Association of Canada.

Dear Sir and Comrade,—

I have your letter of the 2nd inst., and am very grateful for the suggestions put forward. It is valuable, I may say, and I will strongly recommend my Executive Committee, and that it will be acted upon. It may, however, be difficult for us to secure the co-operation of the Militia Authorities, but, if we can do that, the rest is simple. It is decidedly to the advantage of the Government to assist us to adopt your scheme, and it is most certainly in the best interest of the men that they become members of the Association.

During the first year of our existence we accomplished much in the ways of better pensions, and the more efficient handling of the problems that have to be fixed in the rehabilitations of the soldiers.

I will be pleased to have any further suggestions you may make, and shall be



PAPER SHORTAGE.

Correspondence Clerk writing to Headquarters 19—!

RECONSTRUCTION—continued.

most happy to have your assistance in this work, when we are in a position to undertake it.

I am enclosing two copies of the Constitution for your information, and am also forwarding a few copies of the "Veteran," our official publication.

With fraternal greetings, believe me to be,

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) R. M. STEWART,
Secretary, Treasurer,
G.W.V.A. of Canada.

The copies of the Constitution referred to are open for the perusal of any of the boys that wish to do so.

The reply to my letter proves that this organization is the right one for us, and if the powers that be do not see their way clear to assist us in my scheme, I strongly recommend that every man becomes a member on his discharge. There is no other way. "United we stand, divided we fall." We are united now, and indisputably standing so let us unite again after the war, and (stand) for right and justice.

(Signed) J. BRYANT, S/M.

HUMOURS OF MUSTER PARADE

S./Sgt. Ellis, in endeavouring to get his party to right about turn, was lost for words, and this was the result: "Party 'Shun, Front!"

Cpl. Morrison.—During the stand-easy period Tiny was very confidential, and told a few of his friends that the Sergt.-Major had told him he was the smartest soldier in the office. However, he omitted to add that this happened the night he was on duty by himself.

Cpl. Beesley should know by now that it is not in accordance with the Manual of Military Training to salute a sergeant-major, even on muster parades.

Pte. Stanton appeared on parade in a disreputable looking tunic with a gaping hole in the elbow, and was tickled to death when the R.S.M. took his name, thinking he was bound to get a new tunic. Surely Basil has been long enough in the office to know that it is ridiculous to expect a new tunic as long as the buttons are in good order.

Pte. Hicks-Beach (the Chancellor) created much merriment by his appearance on parade in a pair of trousers of sage green and of pronounced Bulgarian cut, with a tunic of very light brown. The contrast was screamingly funny.

It will be a source of gratification to members of the Staff to know that in spite of the absence of the S./Sgt. Traylen and Sgt. Logan it has been decided to hold Muster Parades as usual.

A pleasing feature of Muster Parade was the appearance of a large number of the C.R.O. Staff in tunics showing the new fancy frilling on the tunic sleeves. As a matter of fact it is not really frilling, but is a condition due to a cloth disease known in Q.M. Stores as "Tunicus Oldas Helle." Just now the disease seems to be very prevalent, and it certainly adds a certain amount of gaiety to the parades to see the various parties of men swinging on the parade ground with caps at a rakish angle and frilled sleeves; it takes one back to the days of the Jolly Old Cavaliers with their frillings of lace.

Another little item which has caused a lot of uneasiness of late is the non-appearance of the pipe band. Judging from correspondence in the "Bulletin" a few weeks back one was led to believe that a pipe band was a reality and was only waiting for a Muster Parade to make its debut. It is a source of annoyance to the mounted members of the Staff (not the Bulgarians) to think that all day long they sit on wooden mounts digging their spurs in the chair legs when they would be far happier marching round the city with their spurs jingling in tune with the pipes. Come on, you pipers, get a move on!

A letter was received in this Office recently addressed:—To Canadian Wreckard Office, London. Excerpt. "The last Wreckard they had he went O/S on a raft."