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Mr. Seebohm Rowntree Says That it is Imperative that the Nation Should Consider in Advance Some of the Social and Industrial Problems Which Will Confront it When Peace is Signed.

Mr. B. Seebohm Rowntree has an urgent and informative articlé in the October Contemporary Review on our Home Problems After the War. His time will be singularly unqualified to argument runs thus-of its urgency absorb this additional labour. Vast there is no doubt

### Three Stages After the War.

"The war has taught us many les sons, and one of the most striking is the tremendous material advantage which Germany has gained not only from the extraordinary thoroughness with which she has prepared for war but also from the ability which she has shown for many years past in developing the full industrial resources of the State.

"Just as Germany has for years been patiently preparing for war, let us prepare for peace, and grapple beforehand with the difficulties which, like the other nations of Europe, we must face when hostilities are over. "It seems likely that after the war industry will pass through three

"First, a period of very serious dislocation of trade, causing much unemployment, and probably lasting for several months.

"Second, a period of feverish trade activity, lasting for a year or more. "Third, a long period of severe trade depression.

"My purpose in this article is to indicate the grounds on which I make this forecast, and the problems which, if it be correct, will call for solution.

Serious Trade Dislocation.

"Directly peace is signed, demohilisation of the greater part of our army will begin, and the bulk of its members will be thrown upon the labor market. Theoretically, demobilisation should only take place gradually, as the labor market is able to absorb the men demobilised, but fact in this case can hardly be expected to conform to theory. A great proportion of the men definitely joined the army for the duration of the war only, and were promised reinstatement in their old jobs at its

close. We do not know exactly what

the proportion of these men is, but it

must be very large ,and it is highly

it probable that they will agree to

"Is it Imperative." stay with the colors for months after hostilities cease. The great majority hostilities cease. The great majority location will last depends on many of them will return straightway to their previous employment, throwing out of work those who have occupied

their places during their absence. "Considerably over a million men will be thrown on the labor market within three months of the termination of the war, and work will have to be found either for them or for the individuals whom they will displace. Moreover, the labor market at the

numbers of workers to-day are engaged in manufacturing goods, the demand for which has been created directly or indirectly by the war. When peace is signed the great bulk of this demand will cease, and consequently there will be very serious dislocation of industry apart from that caused by the demobilisation of the army.

"Just how long the state of dis-



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### Feverish Trade Activity.

circumstances at present quite uncertain, notably on the length and cost of the war, the size of the Army when it is over, the length of the interval between the essation of histilities and the signing of peace, and the nature of the peace. But after a longer or shorter period of transition. period varying from trade to trade. industry will gradually pass into a stage which wil: be one of feverish activity.

"Orders will pour in from manu facturers and retailers whose stocks are depleted: France. Belgium and Russia will need goods to restore the districts ravaged by war, and a share of the contracts will come to England; shipowners will clamour for new ships to replace those which have been sunk; many manufacturers, seeing a time of booming trade before them, will order machinery and enlarge their buildings. No doubt too, England, although she will for some time to come lose the export trade previously done with Germany, will secure a part of the trade with our Allies which was previously in German hands, and will probably be

the gainer on the whole. Prolonged Trade Depression.

"The extent and the duration of the trade activity of the second industrial period will depend, as in the period preceding it, upon the length of the war, the material damage done, and the extent to which the financial exhaustion of the different countries proceeds. It is conceivable that the activity may for a time be sufficiently marked to absorb the surplus labor, out when the depleted stocks of ma chinery and goods are made up, and the abnormal initial demand to re place capital and wealth destroyed by the war has been met (to whatever extent it can be met) industry will probably pass into a third stage, characterised by a depression lasting for a long time. This depression well nigh inevitable, will be due to

the fact that the world is poorer. "Humanity will have spent directly ipon the war many thousands of millions of pounds-money wasted, from the industrial and economic standoint, as completely as if it had been evoted to employing men to dig oles in the Sahara and fill them up gain. But the indirect losses occaoned will have been far greater. When the gigantic struggle is over. vealth representing fabulous sums will have been lost through destruc-

tion of property, through loss of trade a time of serious industrial depresmen from productive industry, and through the premature death or disablement of millions of men, many of whom possessed knowledge and skill of inestimable national value."

What Can Be Done.

Having thus stated the possible condition of affairs, Mr. Rowntree considers what can be done, and he makes these remarks and suggestions:

We must provide for our soldiers on their return an honourable means of subsistence.

The cost of living will be high and the economic position of the worker will be weaker. Many women will retain the posts they held during the war. To avert the calamity of a lowered standard of living surplus labor must be absorbed as it tends to keep down wages in periods of bad

Let the Government form an exceedingly strong committee to prepare a comprehensive scheme for lealing with unemployment.

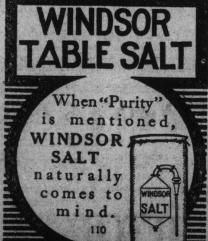
This committee might consider:-1. The provision of working-class

2. Afforestation and reclamation of waste lands. 3. New roads.

4. Clearance of slum areas. 5. Work held back by the war.

6. Training unemployed men women to be efficient workers. If such schemes are said to be unnecessary, Mr. Rowntree replies that "the problem of dealing effectively with periods of exceptional unemployment never has been solved in the past." But "if suitable provision

of British Army is made, it should be possible even at



through the withdrawal of millions of son for the State to prevent the volume of unemployment from rising above the normal level."

No Fatalism.

"We must steadfastly resist the spirit of fatalism. If we survey the industry of the country we shall see that almost everywhere there is room for great improvement. It is universally admitted that our agricultural land might produce a great deal more than it does. . . . . We might be very much more efficient in the conduct of our industry. Wealth equivalent to tens of millions of pounds is lost to this country every year by the continued use of obsolete machines and methods. Let us. while carefully avoiding nerve-destroying and quite unnecessary 'drive,' try and introduce into the industrial world something of the push and go which characterize much of the industry of America, and something also of the plodding methodical efficiency of

Then Mr. Rowntree urges that our whole system of education shall be reviewed so that it may qualify the boys and girls to succeed in life-"in life itself, not in the trappings of it." As to the money for all these schemes, "we should not be content unless we are creating wealth that is in itself creative. . . . There is wealth which is destructive, there is wealth which is simply inert; but there is also creative dynamic or seminal

### Splendid Health a Splendid Feature.

London, Oct. 29.-England's splenid sanitation and the unprecedited ealthfulness of the British army is a saving feature in England's status in the present war, according to a statement by Sir Jas. Crichton-Browne, an eminent medical authority, before tthe Sanitary Inspectors' Association to-day.

"With a larger army in the field than ever before," said the speaker, "the percentage of disease is lower

than in times of peace." Sir James called attention to the fact that although a million men had been rejected for physical defects during the first year of the war, these men had all been born from thirty-eight to forty years ago, in the lays of imperfect sanitation, when liesase was prevalent and went un-

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### Unpatriotic Greed.

The notice from the Treasury reveals the fact that there is a tendency on the part of some investors on this side of the Atlantic to take up some of the Anglo-French loan in the United States owing to the exceptionally high yield of interest with excellent security. British banks and the Stock Exchange are not likely to offer any facilities to persons anxious to place their money in this way. The loan in the United States is not intended for British investors, and any subscriptions sent across the "Pond" would militate against the main purpose of the loan-which is to restore exchange between the two countries. There are, however, sordid people who care for nothing except opportunities for enriching themselves, and it is to be feared that such persons are cunning enough to find a means of participating in the loan without having to ask the assistance of British banks or stock brokers. It can only be hoped that such avaricious and mean-spirited folk are few in number .- (From The Dundee Adver-

### Crocodile Tears.

The newspapers of Budapest relate a story of Emperor William which comes, they say, from a Socialist member of the Reichstag. In the course of a conversation the Emperor, with tears in his eyes, is alleged to have said that France was the greatest disappointment of his life, and that he was sincerely sorry for that country, which, he thought, was destined to ruin. The Emperor is also quoted as saying:

"The French method of warfare is one of a terrifying nature, brutal and inhuman, the details of which will only be known after the war."

The deputy says that the Emperor actually cried when he said that France was condemned to death. "The aim of this war," added the Emperor, "is that Germany, in its great unity, should became the heart

of Europe, and lead in the work of civilization and humanity." The Hungarian papers give great prominence to the interview.

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