

## HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA,

TUESDAY, 17th July, 1917.

The Special Committee, appointed to consider, inquire into and report upon the reception, treatment, care, training and re-education of the wounded, disabled and convalescent returned soldiers of the Canadian Expeditionary Forces, in accordance with a resolution adopted by the Committee on Friday, 13th July, beg leave to present to the House the following as their

## SECOND REPORT:

In any measures dealing with returned men, it must be borne in mind that the Canadian Expeditionary Force is not made up of professional soldiers, but is almost entirely composed of citizens, who, at the outbreak of the war were engaged in their ordinary peaceful avocations, and who, when they are discharged, will expect and desire to return to a normal life.

Canadians can never forget the magnificent services rendered by these men in the defence of our very existence but it would be impossible for the State to calculate in terms of dollars the value of their services, or cancel by money grant its obligation to its brave defenders. Their chief reward must ever be the approval of their consciences, and the undying gratitude of their fellowmen.

But in the opinion of your Committee, the State owes to each of her citizen-soldiers on his return to Canada at least two things:—

(a) Restoration to fitness, as far as may be possible, if by reason of service, efficiency has been impaired, and—

(b) Preferential opportunity whereby the returned soldier may, by his industry, be assured of a comfortable living.

A new country like Canada with vast unexplored natural resources, which we all believe will be developed after the termination of this Great War, contains countless opportunities for ambitious men to win their way, and in so far as the State is able so to do, the first call upon these opportunities should be placed at the disposal of those men, who, in the hour of peril were willing to jeopardize their lives for our common defence.

It is then with these principles in view that the Committee of Parliament, appointed to examine into and report upon the care and treatment of returned men, submits the evidence taken before it and lays before the House certain recommendations based upon the study of the facts as presented by the various witnesses examined.

## CLASSIFICATION.

Returning men may be divided into two classes:—

(1) Those who have suffered from wounds or illness and are being from time to time sent back to Canada:

(a) For immediate discharge as permanently unfit for further military service.

(b) For further medical treatment.

(2) Those who though not impaired in efficiency are given their discharge.

The first of these classes is largely composed of disabled soldiers who, at the present time, are returning at the rate of from 1,500 to 2,000 per month. They form our immediate problem.

The second of these classes are the fit men, who, for the most part, will not return until the war is over but whose distribution and absorption into the civil life of Canada will constitute the general problem of demobilization.