

Canada to the other and knew the facts too. The numbers covered by the recommendation are to be found at page 61 of the report. It is there stated that there are 10,146 men. At page 20 of the report the commission has this to say:

This leaves about 10,000 men with actual war service who are physically fit, who want work, and up to the present time have not been able to find it.

It will be noticed that the recommendation does not include those who served only in England or Canada, and includes only those imperials who were domiciled in Canada when they enlisted. And I would draw particularly to the attention of the minister the fact that the recommendation that the government assume responsibility for these men is directly in line with the recommendation of the national employment commission, known as the Purvis commission, that the Canadian government should assume responsibility for the unemployed in Canada who are employable. Both commissions recommended that employable men willing to work were the responsibility of the dominion government; yet the answer of the government so far as veterans are concerned is, "We will assume responsibility only for those who are unemployable, who are broken down." In other words, the government's policy is what might be termed a "break-down" policy. There is to be no responsibility for care and maintenance of an unemployed veteran unless he is broken down.

I submit that the policy should be to do everything to prevent these men from breaking down. It is another case of an ounce of prevention being worth a pound of cure. This answer is given by the government despite the fact that it was known from the start that the fit unemployed veterans were the largest group in trouble. It was known that these men could not all be put to work and that the commission would have to make some recommendation for their care and maintenance while unemployed. The principal reason given by the minister in support of the government's action is, "Oh, the soldier organizations have not supported the recommendation; the soldiers are not agreed on what should be done." As a matter of fact, I do not think there were many soldier organizations in Canada that were not agreed that the responsibility lay with this government. There was some disagreement as to the method by which that responsibility should be undertaken, but there was practically no disagreement on the principle recommended by the commission.

Certainly the reason given by the minister is no excuse for doing nothing; it is merely

camouflage. No answer is given to the reasons set forth by the commission for the recommendation. The commissioners found that the veterans are handicapped in the labour market because of loss of training; that they were in the army during the time when normally they would have been receiving training; also because they were preaged. The dominion government admitted that the ex-soldier is preaged to the extent of ten years when it made provision that the war veteran should receive an allowance at sixty years of age instead of at seventy, the age at which the civilian becomes eligible for old age pension. Another reason given was the difficulty that these men had in readjusting themselves when they came back from the war; many of them have not been able to readjust themselves up to the present time. It was found that all these handicaps are the result of the service that these men gave to their country. The commission also considered the tendency of the provinces and municipalities to question their obligation to the veterans. It was found that these other governmental bodies take the position that the veterans are not their responsibility; that they are the responsibility of the dominion government. At page 34 of the report of the commission we find these words:

The whole problem of care of the veteran is complicated by the different, and frequently conflicting, governmental authorities. The dominion government has always assumed full responsibility for its pensioners. Not so, however, in the case of the non-pensioners who are classed as ordinary citizens and come under the same social legislation and benefits as other residents of their respective municipalities and provinces. None the less, the majority of unemployed veterans insist that they are wards of the federal government because they were enlisted by that government, paid by that government, and promised the never-failing gratitude of the country by representatives of that government.

This attitude is shared by the provinces and the municipalities. True, in respect of the latter there is always the hope that they may succeed in shifting part of the burden of expense from themselves. But apart altogether from this hope, there is a feeling that the federal government has a responsibility towards the veterans that sets them off from ordinary citizens.

Another reason given by the commission for this recommendation is the attitude of the veterans themselves toward relief. The following is to be found on page 19 of the report:

To the veteran, relief is something which is given reluctantly by a government body—usually his municipality—which he does not consider the governmental authority that really should look after him. The war veteran's allowance on the other hand, is looked upon as a reward for services rendered to the dominion government during the great war. The veterans'