

REPATRIATION PLUS EMPLOYMENT.

Help from Every Loyal Citizen.

Towards the new order of social and industrial conditions in Canada, the government would seem to be making most headway through the department of civil re-establishment and the department of labour. The work of re-establishing the men from overseas in civil life is being undertaken in a conscientious manner, to the extent of helping them with guidance and information, and pensions and special aid where they are entitled to it, to offset disabilities which have been acquired on active service. The department of labour is pressing forward in co-operation with the provinces towards the organisation of a chain of employment offices across the country; in the Maritime Provinces, where the provincial authorities take the position that they cannot afford to share the cost of establishing employment offices, the federal department of labour is arranging itself to open ten or twelve offices, and a central clearing house to direct the movement of labour to places where there are opportunities for employment.

The soldiers' settlement board, under the direction of the minister of the interior, is created for the purpose of getting men established under fair living conditions in the main national industry of agriculture. The government will lend \$2,500 to any qualified returned man for the purpose of acquiring land, discharging incumbrances, erecting buildings, and securing the necessary livestock, machinery and equipment. The several branches of the work of the land settlement board seem likely to be of general practical service; the agricultural training branch is prepared to give short courses in practical farming to settlers who have not had agricultural experience; the loans branch will supervise the loans provisions; the equipment branch is for the purpose of helping the settler to secure proper equipment; helping to plan his farm buildings, and advising him with regard to the purchase of materials, machinery and livestock. When the fourth branch of the soldiers' land settlement board, the lands branch, has worked out the way for prospective settlers to purchase the land they deserve—good agricultural land near the railways—as well to put up buildings and secure equipment and livestock, out of the \$2,500 loan at five per cent. by the government, one of the greatest avenues towards productive employment and social stability in the approaching times of change will have been opened in Canada.

It does not require a very profound study of history to make plain the fact that repatriation of 400,000 Canadian men, after their years of experience overseas, must go deeper than the mere organising of existing employment opportunities. Mr. H. J. Daly, director of repatriation, is evidently aware of the deeper meaning of the task before him, and before the nation. In a message, he says:

"The fight is over—yes, but not the war. The war will be over when those who went in Canada's name to fight the battles of democracy, are so re-established in the land of their birth, or of adoption, as to be able to enjoy the fruits of democracy, and when the damage wrought to humanity by the war has been repaired to the utmost of human capacity."

The democratic tone of Mr. Daly's message

is rather more outspoken than old time national leaders in Canada are used to; but the times are unusual, and some exceedingly unusual changes in the social structure of this country, along with other civilised countries, seem to be about due. The orderliness of the changes will depend quite as much upon the people at home, who have not had the privilege of travelling abroad in the last four or five years, as upon the men from overseas, who have been learning the principles of solidarity and co-operation, and what can be accomplished by them in a forward movement against what would seem to be stubbornly entrenched opposition.

The committee of repatriation and employment, with Mr. Daly, an experienced business organiser, as director, is concerned with the linking up of all government activities for the re-establishment of productive employment conditions in Canada. It is essential that the department of civil re-establishment, the department of labour, the land settlement board, the housing and town-planning board, the road and highway board, and every other department concerned with industrial reconstruction, shall work together. It is the sound way to organise nationally for dealing with a national situation, just as in the war the infantry and the artillery, and the tanks, aeroplanes, and every branch of military service had to dovetail in with every other branch to avoid regrettable incidents and to ensure results.

The director of repatriation would seem to be conscious of the further task of enlisting the active co-operation of every Canadian citizen, irrespective of bygone political opinions, in preparing to make the new Canada of 1919 a better place for work-people to live in than the Canada of 1914. The national readjustment that is necessary to set up harmonious conditions in Canada, in keeping with the principles of democracy and social justice established at such cost in the war, will require "individual effort just as winning the war required individual effort." Furthermore, says Mr. Daly's message from the Committee of repatriation, "It requires the effort of every medium or organisation that has to do with the social and economical betterment of all the people. Therefore, in our efforts to re-adjust conditions to a better basis we want the assistance of religious, social, fraternal, business, educational, and all other classes of organisations." We want them to help as freely now as they did during the war—even going to the extent of submitting to direction when same is necessary. Such organisations are the agencies to create a community atmosphere of contentment; and they were never so much needed as they are to-day."

This desired help will be forthcoming from every loyal Canadian; it will come with especial pleasure and wholehearted co-operation from every citizen who has sincerely believed the war to be a war of principle, for the purpose of establishing justice and democracy against the onslaught of autocracy and materialism. Employment under worthy conditions for everyone willing to work is one of the first essential steps, it is the safeguard against disorder; repatriation is bound to mean far more to Canada, however, than the opening up of employment opportunities for 400,000 men.

—Ottawa Citizen."

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