

Demobilization Of The Canadian Army

WHEN the Hun are at last driven back across the Rhine, and the Kaiser is brought to bay, when the thunder of the artillery ceases, and the boys in the trenches pass along the joyous words — "Home again" — how will Canada be prepared to receive her great army of soldier sons from overseas?

The re-absorption of this great body of men at the close of the war presents a problem more difficult than the one Canada solved in raising and outfitting her citizen army and sending it to the aid of the Mother Country. The fact that Canada's army is composed entirely of volunteers, obligates the Dominion with the duty of seeing to it that these men are properly cared for at the close of the war and judiciously guided back into civil life. Were the men represented in the trenches professional soldiers, our obligation would be discharged with the last pay-day. But Canada's soldiers are not fighting for money, the farm, the office and the counting house, in answer to the call of the Empire, in order that liberty and democracy might prevail in the world. They will expect to return to similar occupations, and it is our duty to see to it that they are properly assisted in doing so.

According to figures obtainable, the present recruited strength of our forces is about 400,000. Taking it for granted that the war will continue for several months, and that the whole of our present enlistment, and even more, is used in this great drive against the Hun, what will we do with our men when the war is over and they are to shift for themselves, and, if so, will the country be able to absorb such a large number without causing serious complications in our industrial and financial conditions?

Only a superficial consideration of conditions in Canada makes it quite apparent that this problem of caring for our soldiers after the war is one of utmost importance and even if our Dominion and Provincial Governments, backed up by our leading statesmen and thinkers, give the problem serious attention during the remaining months of the war, we will be some time well prepared to successfully handle the situation.

As we are wont to belittle those after-the-war problems which retard the situation and that the problems will solve themselves. They point to the fact that more than a million volunteer soldiers were absorbed in the Northern United States at the close of the Civil War, without causing any change in the economic conditions. As we read back through the history of that great struggle and the so-called reconstruction period, it might seem at first thought that what happened in the States will happen in Canada. However, a close comparison of Civil War conditions and those which prevail in Canada, shows many differences.

The population of the United States at the outbreak of the Civil War was about 31,000,000, of whom something like 11,000,000 lived in the Confederate States. The census figures of that period show that upwards of two-thirds of the population in the Northern States was rural in this proportion also held in the Southern States. This was shown again in the enlistments in the Union Army, where a large percentage were attested from the farms. Up to the Civil War period and for many years after, the United States was emphatically an agricultural nation, with manufacturing limited to certain small districts in New England and the North Atlantic States.

Against this situation we find that Canada's 8,000,000 population is about evenly divided as between urban and rural, while of our 400,000 soldiers recruited to date only 12% came from the farms and ranches, and taking it for granted that all of the farmers and ranchers will be re-absorbed into the farms, what will we do with the remaining 88% of this army of ours?

It is interesting to note the occu-

Professions	12,000
Mechanics and employers	4,200
Clerical workers	12,200
Manual workers, skilled	53,300
Students	8,400
Farmers	38,300
Ranchers	2,600
Total	220,000

The total enlistment since has been increased to about 400,000 but the proportions among the occupations of the recruits apparently remain practically the same.

What Canada needs above everything else is more farmers, for our consuming population is too large for our producing population. It would, of course, be close to Utopian if every one of our returning soldiers could be transplanted at once to our vacant land areas and enrolled on the producing side of our population. But it would be folly to expect that any large number of men who enlisted from the professions, the trades and the clerical positions, would be able to make good on farms, and who any desire to go onto the land, they lack the knowledge. Their temperament and modes of life have been quite different from those of the successful farmer.

A recent survey of labor conditions in Canada, which deals with present conditions and the prospects for a possible demand for about 200,000 more men after the war. It is quite reasonable to suppose that 75% of the returning soldiers will require employment in Canada, and that only one-fourth of this number will be retained in this and similar kinds of employment after the war. Thus we find that Canada will be called upon to find employment for a large number of her returned soldiers and for the larger number of the present munition workers, and that she will properly distribute and care for this large number seeking employment at the close of the war, if we are to maintain our prosperity and prevent serious congestion of unemployed in the cities and towns.

A majority gravitate to the cities and commercial centres. Even in the Civil War soldiers flocked to the cities, and it was not until several months after the mustering out by any great numbers onto the farms. It is quite evident from this that it will be necessary to put forth every effort to develop and increase all branches of our industrial life to care sure to flock to the cities and towns.

After the surrender of Lee, the Union Army was demobilized at the rate of 300,000 per month. The first return of soldiers was made during the three months of May, June and July, 1865, when close to 700,000 were returned to their homes. There was for a time a general rejoicing and celebration to welcome the "Boys in Blue"; then came the stern reality that these men must be provided with means of earning their living. Employment agencies for the returning soldiers were opened in every city to their old positions. Farms that remained idle or only partially worked during the war were put under work, providing employment for thousands of returned soldiers. But plans made for the soldiers were mostly local. In some places it was impossible to care for men properly, and other sections there was a need for more. The country was in a serious condition financially, a situation which the statesmen seemed to think demanded more careful attention than that of making plans for the care of returning soldiers.

Taking it for granted that it will be possible to return the Canadian army to our shores in large numbers and within a short time after the end of the war, it would seem from the history of the Civil War that it would be more desirable to turn this great body of men back into civil life only in such quantities as the body could assimilate. This can only be accomplished through adequate plans worked out well in advance and administered by men who have expert knowledge of labor, industrial and financial conditions in all parts of the Dominion.

Among the most practical plans suggested is that of making a careful census of our overseas forces directly after the war is over to ascertain the employment requirements for the men upon their return to Canada. Such a census would show how many were desirous of returning to the farm or of taking up that class of work upon their return, and it would show how many carpenters, masons, machinists, etc., would require employment and when they would be available.

There will be, as a matter of course, a number of men who will have positions awaiting them — others will have relatives or friends who care for them until such time as they have secured employment. Such men will not be a charge upon the country and first. But what of those who have no relatives to look after them and who have no resources upon which to rely during the assimilation period? The nation must certainly care for these, as shown by the enlistment from the laboring class.

It is estimated that it would require 400 large transports to bring back all of Canada's overseas forces within three months after the close of the war. As this number of large boats would be impossible to secure, it is quite evident that we cannot count upon returning more than a few thousand each month. The matter of the Union Army completed for the most part in sending regimental trains back to the place of recruiting, a task requiring only a few days duration. Canada can hardly count upon the return of her men short of a year or more after the close of the war.

The question follows, how are the men to be handled after they return to Canada? It would seem to be desirable that they be kept in camps or mustering-out depots until the proper authorities are satisfied they can be provided with employment. Under such a general scheme and with their care on this side provided for by provincial or sectional depots, there should be a minimum of difficulty in getting the men back into civil life.

The proposed plan of awarding a free homestead to soldiers, regardless of whether they have any agricultural experience, is fraught with many dangers, as Canada's experience after the South African war demonstrated. Such a plan merely feeds the government land to the hands of speculators, without fulfilling the object of caring for the soldier.

Again, most of these returning men know little or nothing about farming. True, the outdoor life they have brought in, in a large number of cases, will be for a continuation of this life. But some specially designed plan for co-operative community farming is the only way in which most of these men who lack agricultural education may hope to make a success as farmers. For those desiring to take up farming, the Government might afford to maintain them for a year or two in a camp, even providing for the sectional of their families in order that they may be given the instruction needed to carry to them a chance to win success from the land. Once they have secured this education and are placed upon a farm, among neighbors of a similar type, there to receive continued advice and instruction and guidance from Government experts, there is hope that a majority will succeed.

All these problems must be studied carefully. Their solution will require time and the best brains of our country. The start should be made by the Government at once by the appointment of a commission, composed of the best part of civilians — for it must be remobilization — the industrial, labor and financial problems, that the military specialists will have completed their tasks and won the laurels when the war is over.

(Signed) J. S. DENNIS.

CHURCHILL AND LLOYD GEORGE

They Have a Great Many Characteristics in Common.

Very alike in many respects are Lloyd George, "the man of the moment," Great Britain, and Winston Churchill, the most notable politician outside the Cabinet in that country.

For one thing, they are both men of the very highest courage, and both rate courage in others as chief among the virtues. Both, again, are philosophers and guide themselves when confronted by the various principles of life by definite maxims. Mr. Churchill possesses a prodigious memory for anecdotes and tells a good story well.

Neither is what would usually be called a "well-read" man. Yet each has a wonderful fund of varied information. Both are omnivorous readers of newspapers. Both have read a good many books — Mr. Lloyd George's favorite reading matter is a historical novel, and Mr. Churchill's military history.

It is often mistakenly thought that both men are far from robust physically. There could be no greater mistake. Both are exceptionally strong and muscular — Lloyd George, despite his small stature, weighs 190 pounds, and is of singularly sturdy build. Mr. Churchill, although he stoops, is as active as a cat, and can undergo the most strenuous physical exertion. Both men have a singular strain of youthfulness in their make-up, and when away from work and responsibility, a fondness of all kinds of boyish pranks.

At one time the two men looked to be running a neck-and-neck race for the leadership of the Liberal party. But it looks now as though Mr. Lloyd George has definitely outdistanced the other. He looks safe to see him the head not of a purely Liberal, but of another coalition, Government.

Mr. Lloyd George is by far the more emotional of the two men, Mr. Churchill by far the more logical. Thus, as one might expect, the former is the better platform speaker and the latter the better debater. Mr. Lloyd George is very musical, while the particular form of art favored by Mr. Churchill is that of painting.

Mr. Churchill, when he is in good form, can be very animated, but at times he is preoccupied and gloomy. Mr. Lloyd George, on the other hand, is always animated and animated. Mr. Churchill is apt to lose his sleep too much and too often, while of Lloyd George the enviable knack of being able to go off to sleep at any moment and anywhere where he wants. Mr. Lloyd George cares nothing whatever for the pleasures of the table. He likes the very simplest kind of food, and cares not at all for wine, drinking very little and that little only for the sake of good fellowship. His one extravagant taste is a liking for a good cigar. Mr. Churchill, on the contrary, is an epicure who appreciates a bit of food and cooking, and likes a dinner of many courses. He is also a connoisseur of wines. He is blessed with a remarkably healthy appetite.

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PARRSBORO Shore with its rock bound coast of lofty crags and high walled jagged islands washed by mighty tides, the scenes of Indian legends and the struggles between the French and English, and the residence of a more modern race of hardy voyagers, is a name little known to the tourist, but one that has an ineffable charm for him who has visited this hook of Nova Scotia.

This was the home of Glooscap, mighty god of the Micmacs. Here one finds the Five Islands, lofty and steep-sided islets in the Basin of Minas, pebbles dropped by the mighty Glooscap, so says the folk lore of the simple Redman. Attracted by their isolation, it is believed that Capt. Kidd, the infamous and successful pirate, buried here his treasure trove; and many are the deep yawning holes to be seen in these wild and eerie islands where the bold have saved the guardian spirits of the dead pirate chief's loot out this gold and jewels, bathed in the blood of gentle women and brave men.

Spencer Island, the Indians tell you, was formed when Glooscap overturned his melting pot; and the smaller islands—they are not common islands—they are the Micmacs' dogs, turned to stone as guardians of their master's melting pot. Many are the Indians still to be found here and they believe that some day the great spirit of Glooscap will return to them; and then his chosen people will again rule over the land.

And here in Partridge Island—like the beautiful amethyst—once the home of Kippenegonow, the mightiest Shaman of the Micmacs legend has been. He it was who embarked in his huge stone canoe, harpooned



A Nova Scotia limouine.

the whale, tossed it into his craft as if it were a trout; and when he landed, he it was who split the leviathan stone knife, tossed one half to Glooscap, and himself ate the other.

It was from the lofty cliffs of Partridge Island that a French warrior, pursued by the English, leaped to feet below. And later, it was here a blockhouse was placed when the land feared the raids of Yankee privateers in the stirring days of 1812.

With such traditions, little wonder is it that here was developed a hardy sea-faring folk. Sometimes the wife and her children accompanied the sea captain as he sailed his tiny schooner to the four quarters of the earth; but more often, he sailed away alone and for months the mother reared his children alone and superintended his and with the land of Evangeline.

Here one finds beautiful farms, thick forests, save for here and there a clearing where one can get a view of the magnificent sweep of the Basin of Minas, of the islands of Blomidon, and of the shores ten miles across the cap, and the white roofs of the farm buildings.

Men who have travelled the world over have come to Nova Scotia and declared the scenery along the Basin of Minas the fairest of it all, have marvelled at the mighty surge of those wonderful tides with their unique rise and fall of sixty feet, and have spent their summers in its cool, invigorating climate. A comfortable steamboat service operated by the Canadian Pacific Railway connects St. John, New Brunswick, with this land of legends, bold and noble mountains, and with the land of Evangeline.

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