

that exists in the present war. What was learned by the soldier of 1914-18 was of little value in civilian life. In the First World War approximately half of the enlisted men were immigrant born. In round figures they totalled 156,000 English; 47,000 Scottish; 19,000 Irish; 35,000 from the United States; and 23,000 from other countries. The majority of these men were comparatively new in Canada and were a product of the large immigration wave that marked the first decade of the twentieth century. Many thousands married while overseas, and at the time of the Armistice in 1918 some 17,000 dependants had been returned to Canada, with approximately 38,000 still to be brought back. This situation maintains in the present war but not to the same extent as in 1914-18. In the present war the vast majority of men serving in the Canadian Armed Forces are Canadian born. In the First World War 84 p.c. of the fighting personnel had elementary school education, 13 p.c. had high or technical school training, and 1½ p.c. had university training. In the present war, 40 p.c. have elementary school training only, 47 p.c. have high or technical school training, and 3 p.c. have university education.

One of the principal problems at the conclusion of the First World War was the fact that Canada, with a population of about 8,000,000 at that time, had to fit back into civilian life approximately 423,000 men within less than a year. Of these 423,000, almost half were the immigrants who were really making a second beginning in their adopted country. Sixty per cent of those returned were over 25 years of age, relatively unskilled and accustomed to work in a pre-war economy with swiftly developing opportunity, tending by choice to short-time employment rather than long service, seniority and slow gains. Thirty-two per cent of those serving overseas wished to take up agriculture. All wished to return to civilian life as quickly as possible, and demonstrations by serving soldiers compelled the acceleration of the demobilization program, making absorption in civilian life more difficult. Many disadvantages arose through this speedy demobilization. Three principal difficulties were encountered. These were:—

- (1) The wishes of discharged men in the matter of selection of place of discharge were freely acceded to, and warrants were issued to destinations, irrespective of place of enlistment or bona fide residence, thus aggravating urban difficulties by concentrations of migrant ex-soldiers in these centres.
- (2) Disbandment of units was effected in such a way as to enable local regiments to receive a "Welcome Home", with consequent demobilization of whole units at one centre at one time.
- (3) Families were re-united and sent back together from overseas, so that they had to find shelter and re-adjust themselves without the heads of the families being given an opportunity in advance to explore the situation and the possibility of employment.

In five months, from March to July of 1919, in response to the urgent demand of the men, 70 p.c. of the overseas force was demobilized in Canada; thus demobilization far exceeded the speed of enlistment. A Force which had taken years to recruit and assemble was returned to civil life in a few months. This led to an immediate heavy burden upon the Department responsible for civil re-establishment and made orderly progress in this work most difficult. A further source of later difficulty was the policy of war service gratuity payments. These were generous enough to avoid difficulty in the early months, but it is felt the system of cash gratuities was not as effective in establishing permanent rehabilitation as other measures that might have been adopted. However, it should be pointed out that, if these payments had not been made, it would have been quite impossible for the rehabilitation administration to handle adequately the tens of thousands being discharged.