

I.—RECONSTRUCTION IN CANADA.

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INTRODUCTORY.

The term "reconstruction" admits of various interpretations, but generally it may be explained to mean in this article the getting back to normal economic and social conditions after the stupendous and long-continued strain and stress of war—the healing of the wounds, the elimination of the abnormalities of the war period from our social and industrial life. While it cannot be claimed that "reconstruction" in this wide sense of the word is by any means complete, it has progressed sufficiently far to justify a survey being made of what has been accomplished.

To realize the greatness of the problem of reconstruction, the completeness of the disturbance in pre-existing peace-time conditions must first be understood. The Great War was a life-and-death struggle of nations, not merely a conflict of armies. While the South African War could come and go without perceptibly changing the life of the average Canadian citizen, the Great War, in its stupendous