

**EMPLOYMENT OF DEMOBILIZED SOLDIERS.**

It was early recognized that not only was it necessary to provide medical treatment for a returned soldier, but that he should be introduced to employment when in a fit condition to work. In October, 1915, the secretary of the Military Hospitals Commission was directed to prepare a report on the subject of the provision of employment for members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force on their return to Canada and the re-education of those unable to follow their previous occupations because of disabilities. The report with appendices was printed as a blue book and is one of the first documents issued by any Government in connection with employment after the great war and is the first which contained definite proposals regarding re-training of the disabled. It was pointed out in this report that all those who returned would be found to be in one of the following classes:—(1) "Able-bodied men for whom the situations and positions they left have been kept open by patriotic employers." (2) "Able-bodied men who were out of work at the time of enlistment or who have been superseded in their absence; and invalided and wounded men similarly situated who will become able-bodied after a period of rest in a convalescent home." (3) "Invalided and wounded men who are unable to follow their previous occupation by reason of their disability, but who will be capable after proper training, of taking up other work." (4) "Men who are permanently disabled and will be unable to earn their own living under any circumstances."

A scheme outlined for close co-operation between the Federal and Provincial Governments resulted in a conference between the Military Hospitals Commission and the various Provincial Governments in October, 1915. At that conference an agreement was reached for the creation of Provincial Returned Soldiers' Employment Commissions. All the provinces took up this work and each Commission was regarded as a sub-committee of the Military Hospitals Commission. The Provincial Commissions came into direct contact with the returned soldier, his wishes, his causes for complaint, etc., and the officers of these Commissions were able to interpret to the soldiers the desires and policies of the Government in their behalf. They were also instrumental in securing employment for a large number of men.

**EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS.**

The sudden cessation of hostilities in November, 1918, brought the Dominion Government face to face with the problem of assimilating at short notice into the industrial life of the nation about 350,000 men who had been absent on service for periods varying up to five years. At that time there were only twelve Dominion-Provincial Employment offices in Canada, and the provincial organizations were unable to handle the work. The Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment therefore issued a questionnaire which was filled in by all soldiers overseas, and by March 1, 1919, it was possible to form a fair working estimate of the probable distribution of the