

man were extended to the widows of those men who had died while on active service or as the direct result of injuries or disease contracted in connection therewith. Nurses who had served overseas were already included under the definition of "returned soldiers".

As a result of this legislation the returned man secured an absolute lien on all positions for which he could qualify. Special efforts were made to acquaint returned soldiers with the opportunities thus opened to them.

As a result of the above policy, up to June 30, 1921, 31,333 returned men had been given appointments by the Civil Service Commission, of whom 10,104 were filling permanent appointments. To a considerable extent, preference has also been given to returned men by Provincial and municipal administrations.

FREE TRANSPORTATION OF DEPENDANTS FROM OVERSEAS.

At the outbreak of war thousands of men born in the United Kingdom were resident in Canada. Many of them were army reservists, who immediately responded to the summons of the Mother Country, while others went overseas with the First and subsequent Canadian contingents. The wives and children of thousands of these men returned to the old home, in order to be nearer their husbands and fathers,—and set an example which was followed by large numbers of the wives and children of Canadian-born soldiers. In many cases they went to England expecting to pay only a short visit, but found themselves prevented by the unrestricted submarine campaign from returning. At the date of the armistice it was estimated that there were 50,000 to 60,000 soldiers' dependants whose return to this country was desirable.

As a result of the situation outlined above, arrangements were made by the Department of Immigration and Colonization to provide free transportation from the United Kingdom, France or Belgium to destinations in Canada of the wives and children under 18 years of age of any men who served in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Conductresses, mostly with experience in travelling, nursing, etc., accompanied each ship and special arrangements were made at Canadian ports for the reception and care of the travellers, who in many cases were aided with funds by the Canadian Patriotic Fund and cared for en route by the patriotic and charitable organizations. The average cost to the Canadian Government was \$50 per head, being thus low on account of the large number of infants and young children, and of the very favourable rates conceded by the transportation companies. The amount spent on this service, exclusive of cost of administration, to March 31, 1921, was approximately \$2,800,000.

A further service of a minor character performed by the Dominion Government for returned soldiers, was the redemption at par of exchange of their English cheques representing pay and allowances