

A WEEKLY DRIVE LOOKS AT OTTAWA

Written weekly by the weekly newspaper of Canada

Throughout the length and breadth of the nation there are few who haven't some relative, man or woman, somewhere in the armed forces and it's only natural that everyone is concerned with their future when the guns stop booming. Certainly they've got to stand on their own feet to a great extent to preserve their own self-respect and independence, but in view of their services to our country the State has some responsibility for their rehabilitation. That got me thinking that right here in Ottawa, of course, is the answer to problems which have been maybe bothering people.

I had heard of the Canadian Veterans' Rehabilitation Plan, but didn't know much about it, figured most other people wouldn't either, so I struck off to see E. B. Reid, superintendent of publicly for the Department of Pensions and National Health and got from him a clear picture of just what is being planned for the men and women returning to civil life. What you think of it is your own business. What I propose to do is lay the facts before you for easy comprehension.

The whole very important Plan had to be a blueprint first, but some of it is at work already. Apparently they tackled the problem with the keynote idea that the "job" is the vital thing and the answer to the job is "skill". You know, of course, that the men and women have been guaranteed a return to their civilian jobs if they exist, and if they were bona fide employees of the company before enlisting, and with seniority rights established. But what about the thousands and thousands of others not fortunate enough to have a peace-time niche to step back into? That's the highlight of the plan, as I saw it.

To ensure that thing called financial security during the transition period the Post Discharge Re-establishment Order provides cash allowances of \$10.20 weekly to the single person, \$14.40 to the married and if necessary additional allowances for children on the same scale as when the person was in the service. There are five groups eligible, Mr. Reid told me: 1. Those fit and available for work and who have no suitable employment available. 2. Those under vocational training (also provided under government auspices.) 3. Those in small business or on farms and awaiting return. 4. After discharge, those temporarily unable to work. 5. Those finishing university education which was interrupted by the war, (and the provision for this is also in the plan.)

Before getting into the meat of the thing, let me add that these allowances except in out-of-work benefits, can be applied for within 12 months after discharge or the end of the war. The out-of-work ones are paid only within 18 months after discharge.

The vocational training phase of the plan seems to me to hit the jackpot. There are no strings attached to the offer in this war, so there's no use starting to think "they didn't do this or that" in the last one. Any service man or woman, the plan definitely states, is entitled to vocational training on the basis of period of service, if he will benefit by it, for a minimum of 12 months. Fields of employment are now being vigorously explored and plans, I am told, are laid by which they expect more than 50 per cent of those discharged from the service will go into industry to be trained in various fields. There will be no "sympathetic guiding" and that, to me, seems another highlight of the plan, to restore our men and women returning from the war.

It might be well to add, lest anyone

think the Plan is just in the "mind" yet that phases of the program are operating already, with more than 6,000 having benefited and some 2,000 getting training. Last reports indicate that in connection with those whose university education had been interrupted by enlistment, some 75 are back and continuing their courses through auspices of the Plan.

Now let's get down to earth. That means to the land, where most people in Canada directly or indirectly are rooted. Thousands of those returning will have no other thought in mind than to be independent farmers; others, primary producers or fishermen, as their dads were before them. What about them, I asked Mr. Reid. The answer lay in the Veterans' Land Act, and again you might be inclined to get suspicious in view of past experiences, but don't—until you get the full picture.

There are three types of settlement embodied in the Act: first, full time farming for those with practical farming experience; secondly, assistance for small holdings for veterans in spots easily accessible to the place where work, and this includes, of course, industrial jobs; thirdly, small holdings near fishing areas where the veterans expect to take on the job of being a commercial fisherman.

The Plan is finally about one thing, and might be so, that those going into the assisted settlement scheme must be suited to it and not burdened with an overwhelming debt. There was a lot of experience after the last war, by reason of this very thing not being made fundamental to the plan of re-employment, if you will remember.

Here in a nutshell is the Veterans' Land Act. The State is prepared to finance the purchase of land and buildings up to \$4800 and in addition to stock up to \$2200, a total of \$7000. What does the applicant have to do? He must an application deposit cash to the extent of 10 per cent of the total cost of land and buildings, which is a maximum of \$480. And here's the sweet part of the deal for him or her. If they fulfil terms of the agreement for ten years, the state settles them the whole thing, land, stock and barns, at two-thirds of the cost plus the 10 per cent down payment; that means \$3080. The rest is a gift from the State, which also agrees to finance the balance (\$3200) over a maximum of 25 years with interest at 3 1/2 per cent. The veteran in the deal here comes owner of everything, such as livestock, farm implements, fishing equipment, etc., as well. A simple thesis, this.

Another thing, the veteran is allowed to select his farm or small building himself but he must show that in making the selection it will make for a reasonable opportunity to establish himself, or might I add, himself, too. That is, they wouldn't want a prospective wheat farmer to settle in a pile of sand. There has been many a sad experience in this line that they want to avoid.

This is merely a glimpse of the Plan and of course full details will be provided the individual at the proper time.

I also wanted a brief picture of another side of the problem of rehabilitation, and got it. Regulations provide for pensioners free treatment and allowances as a "permanent right." As to non-pensioners, any ex-service man or woman may get free treatment if it commences within a year of discharge and allowances can be paid for 12 months or the period of service, whichever is the lesser during the 18 months after discharge.

The whole Plan seemed to me one designed particularly as a "mutual aid" sort of thing. The men and women returning from the war service have a direct responsibility to help themselves, but deserve and are to get a helping hand, from those whom they served, the people, and the people are the state. There are volunteer committees all over Canada working closely with the government on this business of rehabilitation. The government is also seeking co-operation of industry and employers throughout the nation, because the transition period is one on which the future of Canada may well depend.

Just a sidelight. When the lads and lassies get their discharge, they are allowed one month's allowance and active pay; a clothing allowance of \$65 and railway fare to home or place of enlistment, as desired.

The Salvage of Human Lives

ARTICLE TWO

(Prepared by the Association of Children's Aid Societies of the Province of Ontario)

Throughout the area in which you live—it may be a city, a town or the wider boundaries of the county—there are children whom health circumstances have deprived of the right opportunities and happiness that your children enjoy. For the moment we need not ask why this has happened to them, or whose fault it is, or whether behind the neglect or misfortune that has made them its victims are conditions of society for which we are all responsible.

There is a long trail of cause and effect that leads to broken homes, to irresponsible parenthood, to low standards of living out of which can come nothing but the starved lives and souls of children. This calls up such reflections upon the organization of human society that most of us immediately find ourselves in a bog of economic and political thinking.

Let us at once admit that the underpinnings of Canadian society cry out for enlightened social engineering and that many of our social and human problems stem out from faulty economics. Nevertheless let us all face our children's problem in Canada with informed minds and warm hearts and recognize that there are tools waiting to be used—good tools, in every community. More tools than there are people using them!

There are at least 40,000 children in this province who for one reason or another during the year must come under the protection of the Children's Aid Societies. Of these at least 40,000 children have been found to be so utterly deprived of normal home and care that our courts have legally committed them as wards of some one of the 32 societies in Ontario. Tens of thousands of others must be temporarily protected while every effort is made to improve the conditions of their own homes and help, advise and educate their parents.

These are just cold statistical statements. Let us use our imaginations a little! They mean that forty thousand little boys and girls in this beautiful province of Ontario, for some cause, have lacked care, opportunity and happiness that in a Christian country is their birthright! Nameless babies placed out in squalor and neglect; little boys and girls so neglected physically that their clothes have had to be found and their bodies rid of worms and some even sent to hospital to bring them back to health; children with the light of their parents' lives beginning to tarnish their own innocence; children, if not actually abused and neglected, suffering physical and spiritual from disorder and incapacity and low intelligence within the home. And sometimes children living because a loving mother has been deserted or a hard working, careworn father, has been left to fill a mother's place.

It was for such children as these that about 70 years ago through the efforts of a few great humanitarians, our world began to besir itself. It was a benevolent English business man, who, having seen the beginning of the child welfare movement in New York, brought the idea of a Society to protect children to England. He went to a meeting of the Liverpool Society for the protection of animals and standing up in the audience said: "I am here for the prevention of cruelty to animals and I cannot draw the line at children!" Famous philanthropists took up the challenge; societies sprang up; the great Lord Shaftesbury fathered the first protection act in 1889. It was the beginning of a new era.

Toronto saw the first efforts in Ontario to establish a law to protect the child, even against its own parents; a shelter for abandoned waifs and regulations to prevent hundreds of little boys and girls begging, selling papers or shoe laces. These conditions had aroused the strong sympathies of a reporter on the Toronto Globe, Mr. J. J. Kelso who really became the father of the first Children's Aid Society in Canada. As elsewhere the movement was bound up with protection for animals and it is an arresting fact that the first response to this dual movement on the part of the Toronto City Council was a drinking trough for horses in 1887. The children came after.

It was several years after this first stirring of child welfare in Toronto that a group of people in Winnipeg went into a meeting of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and submitted a motion that this work be extended to include the homeless children running the streets of this expanding new city. It is a fact that argument was raised that if the children were included then the dogs and cats would not get adequate protection! It is also a matter of record that an elderly spinster on the platform rose, and clutching her little pet dog in her arms, spoke strongly against the motion. Finally Dean (later Archbishop) Matheson, who was the chairman said: "All who want to fight for the children go to the left and all who want to go to the dogs stay on the right!"

Believe it or not, the meeting carried for the dogs and cats. Eleven of the people who were there went

Saved His Train In Nick of Time

British Driver Brings Train to Stop in Tunnel as Bombs Rained Down Outside

LONDON (CP)—A crowded London-bound train was thundering through a tunnel during a recent raid. When about half way through, driver Herbert Blunt, 51, saw the end of the tunnel was illuminated in a dazzling white glare—incendiary bombs were showering down in their hundreds.

In a second or two the train would be in the open. Blunt, knowing that the incendiaries would penetrate the roofs of the carriage with disastrous results, slammed on every brake. The train stopped just inside the tunnel. Then coming themselves with shovels, Blunt and his driver, William Page, raced out to tackle the bombs, some of which had already set fire to the wooden sleepers. They put out nearly 40 that were lying on the track. All the time other incendiaries were falling on either side of the embankment.

After briefly reporting the incident by lineside telephone Blunt and Page went on "hot caution" and were only 30 minutes later. Most of the passengers had been asleep and few knew how narrow an escape they had had. One arrival in London they learned of the platform thinking merely "what a hot late this morning."

Blunt and Page said nothing about the incident and it was a day later when the district locomotive superintendent heard of it from a "mad" man.

"I didn't want to blow off my chest about nothing," Blunt explained. All Page would say was that he remembered, while shouting and on the incendiaries, asking Blunt "if his insurance policy was paid up to date."

SENDS ENVOY TO INDIA

NEW DELHI (CP)—The Government of India has decided to appoint a high commissioner for India in Australia. The first appointment is expected to be made shortly.

GERMAN REVOLT NOT EXPECTED

BELLY (CP)—Rear Admiral G. Finlay Thomson, Chief British Consul, is convinced no mass revolution could be organized in Germany.

The German soldier would continue to fight until told by his officers to stop, and that would not happen until the German Army was driven back over its own frontiers, he told a meeting here. When the German generals would organize a strike on the home front and try to persuade the people it was not the army but the home front that had been responsible for their collapse and surrender.

CANADIAN FLEETS GOOD

LONDON (CP)—Reviews of Canadian fleets will elicit to the public were made recently by the food ministry, which said "this fish is of excellent quality and being already killed the household is saved some trouble in preparation."

EDLFAST (CP)—Because of the traffic tangles they cause, skyscrapers are losing their vogue in the United States and eventually will be as out-of-date as the pyramids, George Vernon Russell, Los Angeles architect, told the Royal Under Society of Architects.

ROOM FOR EVERYBODY

PRODUCTION MEN—keeping in constant touch with customers, suppliers of parts, government and military authorities.

THE ARMED FORCES—with a telephone for training and supply, for transportation, for operations on land, air and ocean frontiers.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS—in touch with every phase of our production and military programs with foreign governments with national and international war agencies.

YOU—depending on your telephone for quick, essential communication at work and at home.

But telephone lines can carry this wartime load only if we all use existing facilities sparingly, and keep our calls just as short and business-like as we can.

Additional equipment is severely limited by material shortages; co-operation must take the place of construction if essential calls are to go through promptly.

The Nation Service Giving Things to Think

ALLIED 3.7 A. A. GUN DOES TWO JOBS



A 3.7 Anti-Aircraft gun has a dual role in Italian fighting. It is an equally formidable weapon as a field artillery gun. Picture shows: A 3.7 gun in use as a field artillery weapon. The rangefinder is not needed, but is prepared for use in the event of the gun being switched to A.A. work.

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