

**Free Farms for British Soldiers.**

London.—The problem of what to do with the millions of British soldiers, many of whom will be disabled, at the war's close—a problem which shortly will await the attention of the United States—has received a large contribution toward its solution in the report of the Empire Settlement Committee, appointed by the British government only last April.

Wholesale emigration to the colonies, under the direction of a central emigration authority, with Imperial loans for suitable railway construction or irrigation schemes overseas, are urged.

"The colonies overseas," the committee reports, "will rejoice to receive the men who have fought the Empire's battles in the war, who are the best of the British race. No settlers could be more desirable, both as regards themselves and their progeny, which may well be of priceless worth in the now unpeopled districts of the Empire overseas."

Bearing in mind America's great arable, but unpeopled districts, in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona, Western Kansas and Nebraska, and up through Wyoming to Montana and Idaho, Americans may read with interest how the British colonies overseas are already preparing to receive the recommended "wholesale emigration."

In Canada, the Government has already voted to reserve large areas in the prairie provinces where ex-soldiers will be granted 160 acres free with 5 per cent. loans of \$2,000 payable in 15 years to men approved by the Settlement Board. "Experience will be necessary," the board announces, "but can be acquired by training, during which the current rate of wages will be paid."

The province of New Brunswick has already established 20,000 acres of community settlement, each to accommodate from 100 to 250 families. The farm will cost from \$500 to \$1,500, 10 per cent. to be paid down, the rest payable in 20 years.

In Nova Scotia, the Provincial Government will "assist applicants in the selection of a farm, advance money, and help unskilled laborers to employment."

In Quebec, the Government will allow ex-soldiers to pay for 100-acre farms at \$3,000, payment to be made in five years.

Ontario will give free grants of 160 acres in the city belt, loaning money up to \$500, repayable in 10 years at 6 per cent. Plans are now under way for training the community settlements.

British Columbia has already passed an act giving former soldiers pre-emption claims on payment of \$10 fee. Loans are yet to be provided for.

The Government of Newfoundland has apparently taken no action yet.

Preference is definitely given to married ex-service men, in recommending emigrations. The proposed Central Emigration Authority is urged to recommend to ex-soldiers, emigrating, not to take their wives and families with them on account of the "practical difficulties," unless they have official assurance that arrangements can be made for their support until he is settled on his holdings. The Authority should secure in some way that the ties are maintained and effort is made to unite the family as soon as is reasonably possible. As a practical method of effecting this object, it is suggested that married men who proceed overseas should be encouraged to allot a certain proportion of their earnings toward the maintenance of their dependents in the United Kingdom and the cost of the passage money.

Widows are to be encouraged to emigrate, after the Central Authority has satisfied itself, through local pension committees and private societies specializing in the emigration of women, that "the applicant is one of the class the Overseas Government would welcome."

As to orphans, "every facility should be given by the home authorities in putting the Dominion Government in touch with those immediately responsible" or the orphans of ex-service men.

Special consideration is also urged "in the case of women who, since the outbreak of the war, have become engaged to men in the Overseas Forces, who, as a rule, have homes ready in the Dominions."

The entire subject of the disposition of women who have been thrown on their own resources by the war, is gone into at great length in the committee's report. In all the colonies, except Rhodesia and South Africa, the committee states, domestic service opportunities are all that await women. In the two exceptions named, however, desire is expressed for women nurses, teachers and clerks.

"It should be borne in mind, however," the committee finds, "that the employments in which some women have engaged through the war—such as nursing, motor-driving, gardening and working on farms—makes them more suitable for life in the rural districts of the Dominions than were women who went out in former years."

Various suggestions are made respecting the machinery of demobilization, looking toward the disposition of the men thereafter.

The committee "would be glad to see the principle accepted that a soldier or sailor who has served in the present war might, within a reasonable time, claim free transport to any part of the Empire where he wishes to settle." In the problem of transportation, however, the committee finds difficulties—difficulties which will confront the United States in a smaller degree than the overseas colonies.

"Probably for a considerable period of time after the cessation of hostilities, the shipping available will be quite insufficient to accommodate any large number of ex-service men who may wish to emigrate," they declare.

Concerning the advancement of capital for improvement schemes on which the employment of ex-soldiers,

is proposed, the committee "foresees difficulties."

"The Parliament of the United Kingdom not only might require schemes to which its credit was to be given to be scrutinized, but would be right in so doing. On the other hand, an Overseas Dominion or State might present a severe criticism of its plans for internal development, particularly if such criticism involved a comparison with, or preference over, those of others."

Here, too, is a difficulty which the United States, with the large labor-emplying schemes of its Federal Bureau of Reclamation, will encounter in less degree than the British Empire.

Finally, the committee urges that "every facility should be given in the case of men with long-service pensions for an advance on the pension for payment of transport to one of the Overseas Dominions."

Its report, the fruit of a brief, but busy investigation, is a bulky and comprehensive document. It represents one of the big problems that will confront the American Government when the day for demobilizing its huge draft army arrives.—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

**Paddy Fields of Japan and China.**

London, England.—The fields in which rice is grown in Japan and China always present a surprise to the new comer. The first time he sees one he probably thinks he is looking at corn growing in some low-lying locality that has become flooded by mistake. On looking further, however, he may see that the whole landscape consists of terraces of some cereal standing in shallow water. These are the rice, or paddy-fields, and they mean a great deal more to the yellow races than crops of wheat, barley and oats ever mean to the western world, where the bread made from these grains is only one staple among many. At the present moment, as a matter of fact, some English people are quite enjoying an almost breadless diet. To the oriental the paddy-fields supply his only food, or at least his chief one; so it is not to be wondered at that culture of rice has come to be looked upon as an honorable profession, and not beneath the notice even of the Emperors. In past years the five kinds of cereals were sown at the spring equinox with great ceremony in Peking. Rice was sown by one Emperor himself, barley, wheat, millet and the soy bean (this was counted as a cereal) being allotted to the imperial princes. Of course, this was only a kind of ritualistic performance, but a great deal of care is everywhere bestowed on the preparation of the fields for the rice crops. They are heavily manured before each spring. Several feet of the richest loam are always ready for the season's growth, and as many as four successive crops are sometimes raised on the most fertile terraces.

The best use has to be made of the season to get this prodigious output. The ground must not be left a moment idle; before the first crop is ripe a second one is being raised, as seedlings, in a small field nearby. As soon as the big one has been drained and the rice reaped, water is again run in and the half-grown plants set out by men and women wading through the liquid mud. In the south of China, the plowing is done by buffaloes at the end of the dry or winter season. These cumbersome, heavy animals may always be seen dragging the primitive plows through the half-dry clay before the planters come. The extensive open plains, where no hedges obstruct, but only a village here and there breaks the expanse of pale green waving paddy fields, make the scenery beloved by the Oriental, and the curious dusty scent, that loads the hot breezes round his simple home when the grain is ripe, is in the air he has breathed from infancy.

**Sandals are Revived for Women of Paris.**

The all-important question of foot-gear has been solved by the fashionable Parisienne. Instead of the high reaching boots "a la russe," she has decided to adopt the classic sandals. The fashion was started by a well known shoemaker of the Place Vendome, and already he has so many orders that he has difficulty in supplying them.

Sandals were the fashion in Paris during the Directoire, when the "Merveilluses" vied with one another in exhibiting their dainty feet and ankles, regardless of the temperature. But such drastic conditions are not imposed by the new fashion, for a special form of stocking, which makes it possible to pass the attaching ribbons between the toes, is a feature of the new style.

Though ostensibly invented to economize shoe leather, the "mode des sandales" is reserved for those whose pocketbooks have not suffered from the war, for the economy is not for the wearers or those who pay their bills.

**Get the Most Out of Your Food.**

The digestive organs absolutely need the influence of pure blood for the proper performance of their functions. Persons that sleep in small, ill-ventilated rooms complain of little or no appetite in the morning and of disagreeable dryness of the mouth and throat. Why? Because, as a result of breathing air that is impure, their blood is impure and fails to give their digestive organs the stimulus they must have for perfect work. It is necessary that we should have pure blood if we want to get all the good out of what we eat that there is in it and to get it comfortably. Hood's Sarsaparilla is distinguished for making pure, rich, vitalized blood, perfecting the digestion and building up the whole system. Get it today. 62-49

**He Won His Case.**

Barrister's Wife—So your client was acquitted of murder. On what grounds?

Barrister—Insanity. We proved that his father once spent two years in an asylum.

Barrister's Wife—But he didn't, did he?

Barrister—Yes; he was a doctor there, but we had no time to bring that fact out.—London Tit-Bits.

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