

IMMIGRANTS AFTER THE WAR

The war will be followed by a heavy movement of Old Countrymen and especially disbanded soldiers to the outer parts of the Empire, and especially to Canada because of its accessibility. The Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, Waterloo, the Crimean war and the Franco-Prussian war were all succeeded by considerable emigration to this country. The cause was unemployment in the United Kingdom—a condition which will be accentuated at the close of this conflict.

The discipline of soldiering prepares men for the hardships of pioneering. Hence it came that the best settlements in Nova Scotia, Ontario and other Canadian Provinces were begun by ex-soldiers. These men, who had served the Empire abroad, and the United Empire Loyalists, who preferred the Canadian woods to comfort under a foreign flag, laid the British foundations of the Dominion deep and strong.

It need not be feared that an influx of discharged soldiers will tend to militarize public opinion. Having seen active service they fully appreciate the horrors of war, but they and the strain they will introduce into the blood of the nation will give support to reasonable defence measures. It will be the privilege of Canada after the war to receive as many of the able-bodied British soldiers as economic conditions and the welfare of Canadian workingmen will permit. As far as possible the ex-soldiers should be encouraged and even assisted to go on the land.