In the province of Quebec, it is appalling to see forest workers spending so much of their time in travelling from one region to another and in having to go back home so frequently. I have formed the opinion that if welfare committees were organized to look after their families, as in the army, the men would stay much longer on their jobs. Why shouldn't the moral and social welfare of the forest workers' families be looked after by improving their living conditions?

As to the post-war rehabilitation program as it would apply to the forest, it could be revised by the provincial or regional committees. The main duty of foresters is to advise the members of the different committees so that they may visualize the exact situation when the program is submitted to them.

BY ELLWOOD WILSON

Consulting Forester, Knowlton, P.Q.

After the war, soldiers, munitions workers and young people reaching an age when they must earn their own livings are going to ask: "How is it that you could give us work and take care of us in wartime and now you tell us that we can find work for ourselves or starve." They are just not going to be put off with some nonsense about the law of supply and demand or with any academic theories of economics. They are going to demand a new deal or know the reason why, and they are going to refuse to go through the hell of the last depression. It is all very well to talk about individual initiative and the hardy pioneers. Society has grown far too complex, industry has become a matter of huge corporations, and the opportunities for a man to go into business for himself have practically vanished.

If we can tax ourselves to win a war, how much more can we afford to tax ourselves to fight against unemployment, undernourishment, slum housing, and lack of educational facilities. We already tax ourselves huge sums to take care of paupers and criminals caused by such conditions.

We must plan *now* for these problems, and not wait until the soldiers are returning on the transports and the munition workers are being fired.

What can the Canadian Society of Forest Engineers do?

One of the greatest contributions President Roosevelt has made is his establishment of the Civilian Conservation Corps, in which about 300,000 young men, unemployed, have each year been taken off the streets and given an education and wholesome outdoor work. They have been shown how to live decently, how to take care of their health and how to work in co-operation. They have been taught elementary school subjects, when necessary, and trained in forestry, mechanics, plumbing, radio technique, automobile repairing, carpentry, clerical and other office work, stenography and type-writing. They have been trained to build roads, trails, bridges, telephone lines, to do improvement work in the woods, to prevent and check erosion, to plant trees for windbreaks and in plantations, to fight forest fires and many other things.

The housing and discipline have been taken care of by the Army, without military drill, and the work has been directed by the U.S. Forest Service. These are the two most honest of the government departments and there has been not even the suspicion of political graft or patronage in this work.

Here in Canada we tried labour camps which, from my own inspection, were poorly run and did not help the men at all, but only gave them temporary housing and food. We tried the dole, which did little but lower the morale of our people. We tried the soldier settlement scheme, which also was a failure on the whole. In Quebec there was the settling of families on Crown Land areas at an enormous cost to the Government for roads, bonuses, etc., and the devastation of large areas by forest fires. The settlers have endured many hardships and are rapidly drifting back to their old localities. With the burning and cutting off of the forest—their only means of livelihood—the failure of this policy will be complete. Every area in which settlement has been tried is surrounded with the blackened remains of what was once productive forest.

There are certain fundamentals which must be taken into consideration. Men, to make a success of anything, must be able to do the work required, they must be interested in it and they must have a sufficient return from their labor to support themselves and their families decently. They are gregarious and must have neighbors, educational facilities for their children and recreation.

Returned soldiers are in many cases city dwellers and this is true of almost all munition workers. They know nothing of farming and are not trained to the toil required. Failure is the inevitable outcome of placing such people on the land. Then they become discouraged, and it is hard to get them to make a new start. Farmers nowadays require special training. Many failures have been due to lack of proper farm machinery, tractors especially, or the means to buy it. Co-operative purchasing might overcome this, but men must be trained to co-operate.

Forest colonies are a possibility, but they must be located where the soil is suitable, in river valleys for example. They must be guaranteed steady labor which means that the forests in which they are to be employed must be managed on a sustained yield basis and not on the cut-and-get-out method as at present. Such men could be used as woodsmen, fire rangers, game wardens, river drivers and road builders. They could raise their own food and hay and oats for operating companies.

The Government, being the owner of the forest lands should bear some if not all of the cost of forest roads and improvements. In return, licensees should be forced to cut on a sustained yield basis.

The unmarried and young men should be cared for in camp settlements and trained in the occupations for which they are fitted and in which they are interested. They could spend part of the time in useful work as in the National Forestry Program Camps. One of the most valuable things they could do would be to plant up with useful species, best adapted to the locality, all the non-agricultural lands on farms. This would make productive thousands of acres of land in all parts of the country that are now unproductive, and would add very greatly to farm values and furnish a future supply of easily available raw material for the pulp, paper and lumber industries.

Some agency should be set up at once to consider and plan for such work, to think out the details, to study the best localities and to estimate the cost of putting the scheme in operation.

Foresters are the men who have had the most experience in such work. They know how to handle men and their experience is over a wider field than that of any other profession. The Canadian Society of Forest Engineers should take the initiative in formulating plans, in pressing them on the various government agencies and in informing the public. This is the greatest contribution the Society can make and we should assume the responsibility and give the leadership which is so necessary to success.

We have discussed this whole question of rehabilitation. It has been very thoroughly discussed, and very ably discussed. I don't want to see all the work done today wasted, and I don't want, from my point of view, to see the thing dropped with resolutions. In other words, I don't see the use of passing resolutions which will perhaps go to some authority and be shelved. I want to see all the good work done here come to fruition and some action taken.

I would like to suggest that a small committee be appointed to devise some means whereby this can be done. I think we ought to commence immediately to publish articles in the daily press about rehabilitation. I think we ought to address ourselves to the Ministers at Ottawa and to the provincial Ministers so as to prepare for the work. If we don't start this thing, I don't know who is going to do it. The men who are running the war haven't the time to do it. We want to translate our thoughts into some sort of action. There is only one way. Begin at once with a small committee to bring this matter before the public, and if necessary lay a plan before the responsible authorities, and keep after them until we get something done.

BY W. A. E. PEPLER

Acting Manager, Quebec Forest Industries Assoc'n, Ltd., Quebec.

In that connection, I believe, there has been preliminary machinery set up, and this Society might well get in touch with the proper authorities at Ottawa offering what has been done to date in the preliminary form itself, and suggesting that a representative of this Society be included in the committee and sub-committees set up, or to be set up, to consider that problem. It seems to me it is one definite recommendation that we could go right ahead on.

BY A. R. FENWICK

Secretary-Treasurer, Canadian Society of Forest Engineers, Toronto.

For your information, I would remind you that a resolution on post-war rehabilitation was adopted at the Annual Meeting in Victoria, B.C., last year which asked that immediate steps be taken by the C.S.F.E. to formulate definite forestry projects based on sound forest policy, to be placed before the Government. This resolution further recommended that the President of the Society communicate with the Dominion and various Provincial Governments offering the services of the Society in formulation and execution of plans for the rehabilitation of returned soldiers after the war.

I believe I am correct in stating that the President considered it advisable to first ask each of the eight sections of the Society to outline its views on