

## VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

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### PLACING THE RETURNED SOLDIER.

Chicago, Oct. 12.—[Editor of The Tribune.]—When "the boys come back," this country is going to be up against a problem as big or bigger than that which confronted it in mobilizing our fighting forces—that of transferring them from the army or navy into the business and industrial life of the country without seriously disrupting that life by an unconsidered dumping of these men.

In some cases the positions which they held before joining the army or navy will be open to them on their return, and they will simply resume their duties. In other cases, however, their positions have been filled by other men or by women, or the entire business may have been reorganized to meet wartime demands. And again, there are the boys just out of school or college, who had not had time to make a place for themselves in the business or industrial world.

This country is only performing its duty in endeavoring to place these returned fighting men (and here, of course, we are not taking into consideration those so maimed and injured that they must be taught various specialized trades) in lines of work to which they are best adapted by training, experience, or natural ability, and in which they will prove most useful to society.

This is a tremendous problem, involving careful consideration of each individual. We have built up in this country a wonderful piece of machinery capable of performing just this function—the local draft boards. These bodies of men have been engaged in the task of examining the registrants in their districts as to their physical fitness for service and deciding upon their relative value to industry or the army. All that would be necessary would be simply to reverse the process—reexamining them on the basis of their special qualifications for various industries or professions.

The central or federal aspect of this problem would be the collecting and tabulating of statistics as to the nature and number of positions open in the various trades and industries, and the forwarding of this information to the local boards so that they could refer applicants to the nearest or most suitable openings. This should not be a difficult proposition for the United States employment service to handle with the experience it has had along this line.

It would seem, then, that a carefully worked out plan of coordination between

the employers of the country and the United States employment service, co-operating with the local draft boards would effect this necessary transition with the maximum of smoothness and efficiency. At the same time it offers an undreamed of opportunity for a reorganization and a harmonious adjustment of relations between employer and employé.

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