

must be under rather than over the mark. Dr. Bertillon naturally urges an increase of the birth-rate, but that could have no effect on production before 1935. It is difficult to see how the production of France can be secured at all except by a large immigration.

CARDINAL MERCIER has, through the *Courrier de l'Armée*, addressed the following letter to the soldiers of Belgium:

'Mes Braves: You have no idea, I think, of the anguish which we felt concerning you during the long years of occupation. We wondered whether you did or could stand out at Liège, Namur, and Antwerp. And when, after two months' tenacious resistance, your soldier king gave you the order to defend yourselves to the last on the Yser, were you, you living dead, in a state to put up a defense? Again, when you were in the mud of the trenches from 1914 to 1918, were you living, or breathing? Perhaps you, too, wondered about us in occupied Belgium, the silence of which might make you think it was ungrateful to you. But, in truth, the thought of you was ever present to us. We knew our soldiers, and kept up our feelings of intercourse with them, calling them our deliverers, our models, our supporters, our glory. One of our sharpest regrets was that we could not communicate with you, speak to you or hear you, and so hail and thank you. But at last, to-day, through the *Courrier de l'Armée*, I bring you a feeble expression of my heartfelt feelings as a patriot and a Bishop, and I cry out to you with all the energy that a young heart can give to a breast oppressed with the weight of years: Bravo! Thanks!'

THE problem of the ex-officer is engaging attention in many lands. The war has interfered with the careers of practically all able-bodied young men, and some of these soldiers find themselves in a very serious plight. One can not have too much sympathy for many of these lads. In England, thousands of officers do not know what is to become of themselves and their families. A British officer who is thirty years of age and has a distinguished military career thus tells his story:

'I came down from Oxford eighteen months before the war, after taking my degree. I spent that year and a half in European travel, getting a knowledge of economic conditions in several countries and improving my knowledge of languages.

'Then the war came, and I immediately volunteered. I was a junior subaltern for a month, a senior subaltern for three months, and was then made a captain and ultimately adjutant to a new battalion.

'I went out with an expeditionary force, where I eventually became garrison adjutant and, ipso facto, staff officer.

'I was attached as a kind of equerry to Royalty in an expedition of seven weeks' duration; then I went to G.H.Q. and finally became personal military secretary to one of the most famous generals of the war.

'I want to point out that I had no influence behind me. When I took my commission I knew nothing of military life; it was entirely by my own efforts that I got promotion and was in the end attached to General —.

'I was demobilized in Exeter in February of this year, and was quite sure that I should be able to work my way up in civilian life as I had done in the army. I did n't expect to begin at the top; I was quite willing to go slow at first.

'I at once registered at the Labor Bureau and then came up to London, and had my name taken at Horrex's. The only job which I was ever offered through Horrex's I found occupied on application.

'I wrote seven times to Horrex's, but received no reply, and, deciding that it was absolutely useless to get anything through them, I made up my mind to depend entirely on my own efforts.

'I know very many well-known people, and could have asked them to use their influence on my behalf, but I hated the idea of doing that.

'I spent my gratuity in ordinary living expenses, wearing all my pre-war clothes, which had been carefully kept. I spent pounds in stamps for postage, for I answered hundreds of advertisements, and did not get a single reply. I spent pounds in advertising, too, and the only people who answered were "sharks" who wanted me to invest money in rotten concerns.

'I applied to a famous London hotel for a job as a waiter, and was told that if I could manage to acquire a Cockney accent my application might be considered.

'It is a well-known American in London who has at last given me a chance. I am paid £2 a week as a beginning, but am being taught the business, and when I am better qualified I am to have a better salary.

'Now I am hoping to make good quickly. and am looking forward to getting married in a year's time.

'I have come to the conclusion that, while it is not half so difficult as people imagine to get promotion on one's own merit in the army, it is the hardest thing in the world to make one's way as a civilian without the backing of special influence.'

This is not by any means an isolated instance of the difficulty which ex-officers are meeting in their search for work. At

the headquarters of the Ex-Officers' Union a *Daily Chronicle* representative was given accounts by an official of very many men who have been out of work for months.

'Of several members whom I have seen recently,' he said, 'one told me he was about to apply for a job as a chimney sweep, as he had come to the end of his gratuity; another, now penniless, has been looking for work since March without result and has a mother and sister dependent on him; and a third tells me that after being told he was eligible for free legal training he has spent a good deal on legal books, only to be told that after all he cannot be trained.

'We hope by working together to better conditions for all ex-officers and to obtain work for those who, after giving up all to serve their country, are not offered even a living wage.'

## THE EDITOR'S NOTE-BOOK

The name of **Winston Churchill**, British statesman and member of the cabinet, is too well known to require detailed comment, as is also the name of **G. K. Chesterton**.

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**Arthur Henderson** has long been a leader of the radical wing of British labor.

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**Major A. W. Howlett** is an Englishman who has occupied an official position in the Indian administration.

**Katherine Tynan**, essayist and novelist, has recently published a memoir entitled *The Years of the Shadow*.

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**Hillaire Belloc**, critic and historian, is the editor of *Land and Water*.

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**Sir Lynde Macassey** is lecturer on economics and law at the School of Economics of London University.