

Agricultural College; Mr. Peter Wright, a farmer of Myrtle, Manitoba, who has had long experience and who, with Professor Lee, has rendered inestimable service to the soldiers of that province, and Mr. Sam Larkin, a returned soldier. In Saskatchewan the chairman of the board is Dean Rutherford, of the University of Saskatchewan. I cannot recall the names of the other members. In all the provinces we have boards of a similar character.

Permit me to refer just here to another precaution that we have taken. Early in April we established a Committee of Inquiry to survey the agricultural sections of British Columbia and to report upon the character of farming that had been profitably carried on in those various sections—because they differ almost as widely as agricultural sections differ in all other parts of the Dominion—upon the character of farming, if any, that should be encouraged in each district; upon the acreage that it would be most advisable for each man to secure, and upon the nature of the supervision that would be most appropriate for these localities. Mr. B. E. Patterson, a native of Nova Scotia but a man well acquainted with British Columbia, was made chairman of that committee. They inspected, I think, every portion of that province and made a report of the utmost value. Of the work of that committee I have no doubt the member for Fraser Valley (Mr. Stacey) will later address the Committee.

Another special committee was appointed to look over the lands embraced in grazing leases in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and to report upon what areas in those leases, if any, were agricultural in character, and should be taken away from the leases and made available for returned men. That committee is headed by Dean Rutherford. Mr. Walter Govan is also on the committee; the name of the third member is Mr. T. Smith. This committee has finished its work and submitted its report.

We have also a Small Holdings Committee in these three provinces—there are similar committees in Ontario and in the Maritime Provinces—whose business it is to examine into small holdings which may be taken up by disabled men who desire not to go into farming in a general sense, but to take up garden farming, poultry farming, bee keeping, and the like. This committee is to report as to the number of men who should be encouraged to engage in this kind of work in each of the provinces; as to

[Mr. Meighen.]

the areas each man should secure and the character of operation or combination of operations that he should conduct thereon. The Ontario committee submitted an excellent report about two months ago, and upon it we are proceeding. I do not think that the committees for the Prairie Provinces and for the Maritime Provinces have yet reported.

I now wish to say a word about our general organization. This is a returned soldier enterprise; it is developing into a great settlement enterprise. It was desirable that as far as possible, a returned soldier personnel should take care of the work. I want to give the figures to show how far we have been able to succeed in getting a returned soldier organization that would meet the requirements and that would measure up to the responsibilities, financial and otherwise, involved in this great undertaking. It must be remembered in this connection that we had to establish the nucleus of our organization at a time when the type of men that we were after were, for the most part, overseas. Indeed, it was only in recent months that we had a pretty general field of selection, having regard to the kind of men we desired to get.

There are in the whole organization at the present time 475 persons, of whom 305 are males and the remainder are stenographers, and other female help. Of the 305, 246 are returned soldiers, or 81 per cent of the whole organization. Of the 246, no less than 51 have received decorations in France. I fancy that there is not a more distinctive soldier organization in any other belligerent country.

Mr. McKENZIE: How is that organization distributed?

Mr. MEIGHEN: The distribution of the organization is as follows: The total for Prince Edward Island is 7, of whom 4 are males, 3 of whom are returned soldiers. The man who is not a returned soldier is the agricultural expert whose business it is to watch, assist and supervise the men actually working on the land. We could not get a returned soldier to qualify for that position. Nova Scotia has a total of 9, 8 males, 3 of whom are returned soldiers, or 33 per cent. That is the smallest percentage of any province. For the other provinces the figures respectively are: New Brunswick, 12, 9, 8 or 89 per cent; Montreal, 14, 10, 8 or 80 per cent; Quebec, 3, 2, 2; Ottawa, 128, 66, 52. These 52 returned soldiers are in the head office here.