

Memorandum

RE LAND SETTLEMENT FOR SOLDIERS IN EASTERN PROVINCES.

Having listened to a number of discussions dealing with the question of land settlement for soldiers, and having been impressed with the necessity for some practical solution to the difficulties involved, I have prepared the following in the hope that the ideas presented may be of use to the Government and to the men:—

Scarcity of Food

During the Great War the importance of food production and conservation has been impressed as never before on the minds of all the allied people. The world's need for food products is very urgent. This fact is of great significance to this country. Owing to the character of the soil and climate of Canada, the production of food will probably be the chief business of the majority of our people for many years to come.

Soldiers' Settlement

It is gratifying to note that more than 43% of Canadian soldiers overseas have expressed their desire, on demobilization, to settle on the land. It is believed that a large number also of the men in the British Army, if given the opportunity, will migrate to Canada for the purpose of settling on the land.

Western Provinces

Owing to the lure of the Western Provinces, many of these returned soldiers will prefer to make their homes on the virgin soil and identify themselves with the progressive and freer community life that prevails in the west; but undoubtedly a large number, especially of those who have had little or no previous experience in farming, will prefer to settle in the older sections of the country, especially in southern Ontario and in the eastern provinces by the sea. Many of these men will become successful farmers if properly encouraged and instructed at the beginning of their careers on the land. Their settlement on the soil will obviate to some extent the tendency to crowd into the cities and congest the industrial centres and at the same time assist materially in relieving the food situation. Aside from our obligation to look after the men who have been fighting for Canada and the Empire, it is eminently worth while for the State to assist them because of their economic value and because of the world's pressing need for food supplies.