

TO ERECT FEDERAL SANATORIUM FOR ONTARIO SOLDIERS

Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment will Have Own Buildings on Land Purchased from Province.

COST TO BE \$320,000

To accommodate the number of men returning from overseas suffering from tuberculosis, who are domiciled in Ontario, the Government has been authorized by an Order in Council passed on January 27 to purchase a suitable site secured by the Provincial Government and to erect its own buildings for the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment. The order is as follows:—

The Committee of the Privy Council have had before them a report, dated 18th January, 1919, from the Minister of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, submitting that the number of men returning from overseas suffering from tuberculosis, who are domiciled in the province of Ontario, is continually on the increase. The nature of this disease is such that lengthened treatment is necessary and further accommodation is constantly demanded. In the summer of 1917 negotiations were entered into by the Military Hospitals Commission with the Government of Ontario for the erection of a central sanatorium, half the cost to be borne by the Government of Canada and half by the Government of Ontario.

The Minister further submits that in anticipation of this agreement a suitable site was secured by the Government of Ontario, but it has not been possible to conclude this agreement, as the policy of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment has been, and is, to erect buildings of a semi-permanent character, while the Government of Ontario requires that these buildings should be of such a substantial and permanent nature as to be suitable for a tuberculosis sanatorium for the insane.

In these circumstances it has been deemed advisable that the Department should erect its own sanatorium, and the site secured by the Government of Ontario has been taken over for eighteen thousand (\$18,000) dollars, the cost price. The costs of transfer and other incidental expenses will raise this figure to not more than twenty thousand (\$20,000) dollars.

The Minister states that the present proposal contemplates an expenditure of three hundred and twenty thousand (\$320,000) dollars and the entire property will remain vested in the Government of Canada.

The Minister, therefore, recommends: (a) That the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment be granted an appropriation of seventy thousand (\$70,000) dollars out of the twelve million (\$12,000,000) dollars voted by Parliament at the last session from War Appropriation for the purposes of this Department;

(b) That the Department of Public Works be authorized to erect a sanatorium on the site indicated, subject to the approval by the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment of all plans before calling for tenders, in order to give effect to the established requirements of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment as to special features necessary in sanatorium erection for the treatment of tuberculosis;

(c) That the sum of two hundred and fifty thousand (\$250,000) dollars, granted under authority of (P.C. 2070) of the 27th July, 1917, together with fifty thousand (\$50,000) dollars of the amount now asked for, making a total of three hundred thousand (\$300,000) dollars, be transferred to the Department of Public Works for the erection of the said sanatorium.

The Committee concur in the foregoing recommendation, and submit the same for approval.

TO RECLAIM AREAS OF DOMINION LAND IN WEST

Regulations Now Promulgated. Outline in Detail the Methods Agreed Upon Between Federal and Provincial Authorities to Carry on Work.

Regulations recently promulgated by the Dominion Government, on recommendation of the Minister of the Interior, for the drainage of vacant Dominion land in the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, should go far towards effecting the reclamation of large areas of now vacant and comparatively valueless swamp land or land covered by shallow lakes.

The ownership and control of all sources of surface water supply in these provinces, including lakes, marshes, etc., is vested in the Dominion Government, which also owns the unalienated public land, while control of the drainage of land is vested in the provincial governments.

This divided jurisdiction has provoked controversy and has seriously interfered with the reclamation of submerged or swamp land and with the construction of roads, and generally has materially retarded the settlement and development of districts which comprise considerable areas of such land.

SHARE RESPONSIBILITY.

Agreement has at last been reached between the Dominion and the provinces. The Governments of the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan have enacted legislation providing a simple and satisfactory method of sharing the responsibility, cost, and benefits of such reclamation as may be found feasible, and the Dominion Government, by an Order in Council passed some time ago, approved of this legislation and undertook to supplement it by regulations. The regulations now promulgated prescribe in considerable detail the methods agreed upon for carrying on the work.

Recognizing the importance of reclamation, whether of arid or swampy lands, and the desirability of concentrating all such work under the control of some one organization, a branch of the Department of the Interior has been created, to be known as "The Reclamation Service," for the purpose of supervising and controlling all irrigation and drainage work. Mr. E. F. Drake, the executive head of the new branch, has been appointed "Director of the Reclamation Service," and will in future control all reclamation work of this character.

The new regulations provide for four distinct classes of drainage reclamation, as summarized in the following statement, which is a synopsis of the regulations for the reclamation of Dominion Land by drainage:—

1. SMALL DRAINAGE PROJECTS.

Application is frequently made to the Dominion Government by owners of, or entrants for, fractional quarter sections of land, the remaining portions of which are covered by the waters of lakes or marshes, for permission to drain such bodies of water in order to reclaim the underlying land, which will thereafter be disposed of in one way or another

(usually free of cost) to the applicants. In other cases application is made for permission to drain such bodies of water and to purchase the underlying land.

It is usually found to be in the public interest that such small and shallow bodies of water should be drained, but in spite of the willingness of both the Dominion and Provincial Governments there has heretofore been no means of satisfactorily doing this except by following the procedure of the Private Ditches Acts of the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, or the Land Drainage Act of Manitoba, all of which provide unnecessarily elaborate machinery which is not well adapted to such small projects, although quite suitable to those somewhat more extensive.

The new regulations provide a simple and satisfactory method of dealing with such projects and adequately provide for the maintenance of the drainage works after construction.

2. DRAINAGE REQUIRED IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF HIGHWAYS BY THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.

Considerable difficulty has been experienced by the Provincial Governments in constructing roads through the central and northern portions of the prairie provinces and wide detours are often necessary to avoid shallow lakes or swamps. It has frequently been found that roads built at considerable expense are impassable for long periods and that the only practicable means of building good and durable roads is by first undertaking to drain bodies of water or vacant swamp land owned or controlled by the Dominion Government.

The Provincial Governments have not been willing to spend their limited revenues for works which would largely benefit vacant Dominion land, without receiving some financial assistance from the Dominion Government. The regulations provide for the sale to the provinces of a sufficient area of the land to be reclaimed by such works to pay for the cost of the drainage and road work, and further provide that the provinces shall sell the land so acquired at public auction, subject to such conditions as the Dominion Government may impose, and for the refund to the Dominion of any portion of the sale price after the cost of the works has been defrayed.

3. DRAINAGE OF DOMINION LAND INCLUDED IN ORGANIZED DRAINAGE DISTRICTS.

In many of the more northerly portions of the prairie provinces the arable land consists of ridges or islands interspersed with shallow lakes or swamps. Settlement is sparse because of the limited area of arable land and the difficulty of access to it at certain seasons.

The few resident owners are unable to drain their own lands because usually a comprehensive scheme of drainage is required, the cost of which is beyond their means. The bulk of the land in such districts, or certainly a goodly proportion of it, is vacant Dominion land not assessable for any portion of the cost of the drainage works, although benefitting by such works equally with the land of resident owners.

The regulations provide for the sale of such vacant Dominion land to the Provincial Governments at a nominal price (it is at present worthless or practically so); for the subsequent sale of the land by the province when reclaimed, such sales to be at public auction, subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by the Dominion at the time of sale; and for the expenditure by the provinces of all the proceeds of such sales on the construction of drains and roads within the rural municipalities in which the lands are situated.

4. THE INITIATIVE OF DRAINAGE WORKS BY THE DOMINION GOVERNMENT.

In certain cases where it is found to be in the public interest to drain shallow lakes or marshes and where the

EXPERIMENTAL FARMS AND BEE CULTURE

Work done at Sixteen Depots Show Profit to be Made in Honey.

Bees are now kept at sixteen of the experimental farms, as compared with only five in 1913. During the past few years the number of colonies at some of the farms have increased, while at others they have decreased, chiefly through loss in winter. Methods of preventing much of this loss were worked out.

Taking a period of six years (1913-18 inclusive), the highest returns have been obtained at the Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa, where the average annual yield of honey per colony, spring count, for the six years amounted to 121.6 pounds. The next highest yield was at Nappan, N.S., where the average yield was 102.2 pounds for a period of five years (1913-17); Lethbridge, Alta., gave 76.2 pounds (1913-18); Invermere, B.C., gave 70.5 pounds (1914-18); Ste. Anne de la Pocatiere, Que., 59.4 pounds (1913-17); Cap Rouge, Que., 58.7 pounds (1913-18); Lacombe, Alta., 52.6 pounds (1915-18); Fredericton, N.B., 50.9 pounds (1914-18); Kentville, N.S., 47.4 pounds (1914-18).

The above gives only the amount of surplus honey obtained; to this must be added the net increase made in bees during the same period. The average value of the honey, the price of which varied at the different farms, and of the increase of bees per colony during the same number of years is as follows: Ottawa, \$17.27, 1913-18; Lethbridge, Alta., \$16.49, 1914-18; Nappan, N.S., \$13.41, 1913-17; Invermere, B.C., \$13.26, 1914-18; Lacombe, Alta., \$12.79, 1915-18; Indian Head, Sask., \$11.83, 1915-17; Ste. Anne de la Pocatiere, Que., \$10.42, 1913-17; Fredericton, N.B., \$9.91, 1914-18; Summerland, B.C., \$9.38, 1916-17; Cap Rouge, Que., \$8.79, 1913-18; Kentville, N.S., \$8.11, 1914-18.

White and alsike clover were the principal sources of honey at all the farms except Lethbridge, where the honey came from alfalfa.

There are few places in Canada where bee-keeping cannot be carried on profitably. There are also many farming areas, excellent for bee-keeping, where it is largely neglected. For example, Prince Edward Island; certain marsh lands in Nova Scotia; the St. John River valley, N.B.; the Lake St. John district, Que.; and many places in Ontario and Manitoba.—Experimental Farms Note, Department of Agriculture.

adjacent lands have been alienated and are, for the most part, arable, the direct benefits of drainage accrue almost entirely to the submerged land which is owned by the Dominion. The settlers in the surrounding districts benefit only indirectly by the improved roads and more convenient routes of travel.

Under former conditions the Dominion Government could not undertake the improvement of its own land without encountering serious legal difficulties, particularly in the expropriation of right of way for ditches, etc., and in making adequate provision for the maintenance of the works after construction.

Under the regulations the Dominion Government will be deemed a "resident owner" and will have the right to construct works for the reclamation of such land and to exercise all needful powers under the provisions of the Provincial Drainage Acts. In any case where such work is undertaken by the Dominion Government it is intended that the reclaimed land shall be sold at public auction and subject to such conditions as to residence, cultivation, etc., as may be found necessary in each case, and that the proceeds of the sale shall be used to recoup to the Dominion treasury the entire cost of the work. Dominion legislation may possibly be required before any such work is undertaken; certainly the money for the work must first be voted by Parliament but the regulations remove any obstacles in so far as the Provincial Governments are concerned.