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EXTRACT FROM ORDER IN COUNCIL
No. 2206.

"The Committee of the Privy Council further observes that as this war is being waged by the whole people of Canada, it is desirable that the whole people should be kept as fully informed as possible as to the acts of the Government which are concerned with the conduct of the war, as well as with the solution of our domestic problems; and for this purpose an Official Record should be instituted to be issued weekly for the purpose of conveying information as to all Government measures in connection with the war and as to the national war activities generally."

**UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURE
KEEPS TO AVERAGE****Reports from Trade Union
Regarding Work are
Reassuring.**

The employment service of the Department of Labour reports that for the week ending February 22 employment returns were received from 1,561 firms in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. The total number of persons on the pay-rolls of these firms, February 22, was 168,137, and the number of persons anticipated to be on the payroll on March 1 was 166,806, a reduction of 1,331, or .791 per cent. The most marked reductions were in the vehicles division of the manufacturing industries, in building and construction and in lumbering.

Reports from trade unions for January 31, which have been received by the Employment Service indicate that while there was a considerable volume of unemployment on that date—3.9 per cent—the country is still far from the hard times of the winter of 1915, the percentage of trade union members reported unemployed on December 31, 1915, being 8.7. For January 31, 1,416 unions with a membership of 186,259 reported 7,354 members unemployed, or 3.9 per cent. The building and construction trades were of course the worst off with 18 per cent unemployed, and the food and tobacco trades reported an unemployment percentage of 8. The metal trades do not seem as poorly employed as might be anticipated; 184 unions with a membership of 27,847 reported 894 members unemployed, or 3.2 per cent. The total trade union unemployment percentage of 3.9 for January 31 compares with a percentage of 2.7 for the last day of December, 1918.

Seed Oats at Calgary.

The Dominion Seed Purchasing Commission is offering seed oats for sale at the following prices, f.o.b. Calgary: No. 1, \$1.06; No. 2, \$1; Minnesota and Ontario oats in bulk car lots, \$1.12; Canada Western oats, No. 2 seed, \$1.04; and Prince Edward Island pure Banner No. 1 seed at \$1.34 per bushel.—Office of the Commissioner of Immigration and Colonization, Winnipeg.

A War Savings Stamp is a government Bond.

**MAKE FARM LIFE
ATTRACTIVE FOR
RETURNED MEN**

Aim of Soldier Settlement Board is to Offset Lure of City—Problem is now being Carefully Studied.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

High hopes are expressed that the widening of the powers of the Soldier Settlement Board, to enable it to acquire land wherever situated for the benefit of returned heroes, will meet all demands of many thousands of soldiers, who have served the Empire in its great emergency will find opportunity to become owners of productive land under favourable conditions that have never been equalled in any country.

The following statement of plans and aims has been issued by the Soldier Settlement Board. "The Board is officered by men who know the needs of the farming community and those of the soldiers as well. The position of chairman of the Board was given to a man who stands at the head of his profession. Mr. W. J. Black was born on a farm in Dufferin County, Ontario, where he gained the practical experience to fit him for his life work. He has taught scientific agriculture, edited one of the leading farm journals of the country, and held many important public posts by reason of his outstanding qualifications. As president of the Manitoba Agricultural College he inaugurated many reforms and brought that institution up to a standard of efficiency that gave it a foremost place among the great farm universities of North America.

MAKE FARM ATTRACTIVE.

Mr. Black believes that farm life should be made so attractive that the lure of the city will not appeal to men who are best fitted to pursue agriculture, but who are driven away from the broad acres by the horror of loneliness and by the absence of many ordinary comforts of life. He believes that soldiers who settle on the land should be assisted in organizing for community betterment so that they will immediately become factors in rural citizenship. How this organization is to be effected is a question to which Mr. Black has been giving much attention. The fact that men of wide vision and splendid ideals are thinking and working out these problems of rural life is a guarantee that in the near future it will not be considered a hardship to live removed from the noise and glamor of the urban community. Our farm boys, many of them have been away fighting a stern battle with the foe. They don't want to go back to live alone on the farm. There will be difficulties in the way of the successful rehabilitation of these soldier boys. There are many changed conditions. If we are to accomplish something in the way of making life better for everybody we must give attention to the problems of rural life and it is such men as Mr. Black who will be able to evolve something out of the mass of suggestions that will mean a real benefit to the country. The Soldier Settlement Board, with Mr. Black at its head, is working night and day on the rehabilitation of our soldiers. It has done some things that are worth while, very much so, and it is working out a programme that will unquestionably lighten the burdens of the rural community. Especially will this be true with respect to the soldier settlers who will be established on farms under conditions more favourable than anything hitherto devised in this country for new settlers.

Mr. Black's chief concern, in connection with the re-establishment of soldiers in civil life is to "make the farm safe for the returned man." He does not want any chances taken with these overseas boys. No encouragement will be offered a candidate for land settlement unless there is reasonable evidence that the individual is serious in his intention to make farming a suc-

cess and that he possesses the qualifications necessary for doing so. The returned soldier has earned more than the right to a 50-50 chance of making a living. He is going to be placed, if the intentions of the Soldier Settlement Board are carried out, in a better position than that. It ought to be a moral certainty that the soldier settler will make good. Everything is going to be in his favour, as far as it can be determined. In the purchase of agricultural implements for the soldiers going on the land Mr. Black has laid it down that the Board must get better prices for soldier settlers than the prevailing figures, and to this end he is working to buy direct from the factories and to ship to central distribution points so as to eliminate much of the cost of handling.

TRAINING OF CANDIDATES.

In the training of candidates who may not have sufficient practical experience in farming to equip them for the duties which they are going to undertake, Mr. Black intimates that the course is not to be academic or scientific. The aim is to familiarize the men with the everyday pursuits of farm life and the things that every man must be able to do well before he can start to till the soil. In the preparatory instruction, the idea is to enable the candidate to prove to himself whether farm life will be congenial to him and whether he has the necessary qualifications to make a success of the farming business.

Though still a young man Mr. Black has crowded his life with much useful public service. He secured the best education that his native country afforded and at the age of 25 entered the Ontario Agricultural College, where he gained the distinction of being the first Canadian to participate in the International Student Judging Competition at Chicago, and was successful in winning a larger share of prizes than any other competitor. He afterwards took the degree of Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from Toronto University and joined the staff of the "Farmer's Advocate," going to Winnipeg as editor-in-chief and manager of its western edition. His wide knowledge of agricultural topics brought him to the attention of the Government of that province and in 1904 he was appointed Deputy Minister of Agriculture, and the following year was entrusted with the task of organizing Manitoba Agricultural College. He was president of that institution for ten years, during the last year of which a larger number of students were enrolled than in any similar college at the same age of existence. The college, under his management, was the first in Canada to organize courses in agricultural engineering; household science for women; home nursing for women; in steam and gasoline tractors; for municipal weed inspectors; and in road construction for municipal officials. The college was the first in North America to run demonstration trains equipped for demonstration work in household science, household art, and home nursing.

In 1915 Mr. Black was appointed secretary of the Economic and Development Commission, and in July of the following year, on the death of Dr. C. C. James, was appointed Commissioner of Agriculture, which position he relinquished on being urged to undertake the chairmanship of the Soldier Settlement Board. While Commissioner of Agriculture he made a survey of the activities of the Federal and Provincial Departments of Agriculture, and there is perhaps no one in the Dominion more familiar than he is with the activities of the various provincial governments.

Thanks from Lady Patricia.

The following telegram has been received by His Excellency the Governor General from Lady Patricia Ramsay:—

Please convey to Government of Canada my heartfelt thanks for their good wishes and congratulations.

(Sgd.) PATRICIA RAMSAY.

Salmon Fishery Workers.

The British Columbia salmon fishery employs 18,000 persons and over \$8,000,000 is invested in fishing and canning equipment, according to the Commission of Conservation.

**\$15,000,000 IS
VOTED PENSIONS
FOR FISCAL YEAR**

Expenditure on Account of Pensions to January 31st Amounted to \$13,878,000 According to Report.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

Provision is made for soldiers' pensions for the fiscal year of 1918-19 by an Order in Council, based on the report of the Minister of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, passed on March 3, as follows:—

The Committee of the Privy Council have had before them a report, dated 24th February, 1919, from the Minister of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, stating that the Board of Pension Commissioners for Canada estimated that the expenditure for the fiscal year 1918-19 would be \$16,000,000, made up as follows:—

Pensions \$15,000,000
Salaries and contingencies 1,000,000

2. These estimates were submitted to the Minister of Finance, who approved of the \$15,000,000 for pensions, but cut the estimate for salaries and contingencies to \$750,000.

3. The expenditure on account of pension to the 31st January amounted to \$13,878,000, and the estimated expenditure for the months of February and March will be \$3,700,000, a total for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1919, of \$17,578,000.

4. The expenditure for salaries and contingencies up to the 31st January was \$909,217, and the estimated expenditures for the months of February and March will be \$226,000, or a total for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1919, of \$1,135,217, which is only \$135,217 in excess of the estimate as submitted by the Board of Pension Commissioners for Canada.

5. The Minister, on the advice of the Board of Pension Commissioners for Canada, recommends that provision be made in the Supplementary Estimates to be submitted to Parliament at the present session, as follows:—

European war \$3,500,000
Salaries and contingencies 500,000

Total \$4,000,000

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

RODOLPHE BOUDREAU,
Clerk of the Privy Council.

**MEASURES TO PROTECT
THE SOCKEYE SALMON**

Measures for the protection and preservation of sockeye salmon of Puget Sound are outlined in suggested regulations by the United States Bureau of Fisheries. Similar regulations have been forwarded to the British Columbia executive bodies, and if both the State of Washington and British Columbia act favourably, fish treaty governing sockeye industry on Puget Sound, and in British Columbia waters, will be ratified. Regulations were drawn up by American-Canadian Fisheries Conference at Seattle last April, says a report from the Winnipeg office of the Commissioner of Colonization.

Fire Loss During 1918.

It is stated in the March issue of "Conservation," the monthly bulletin issued by the Commission of Conservation, that sixty-two fires alone were the cause of almost 50 per cent of the fire loss in the Dominion during 1918. The total number of fires was 17,355, which destroyed property worth \$33,623,000, but more than \$23,200,000, or 69 per cent of the loss, was caused by 276 fires, 62 of which were responsible for nearly half the total loss.