

HOW RAILWAYS OF CANADA DEVELOPED

Sixteen Miles of Line in 1836 and 38,604 in 1917

The first passenger-carrying railway in Canada, the Champlain and St. Lawrence, was opened on July 23, 1836, and the length of the line was 16 miles. The line was the only one in Canada until 1847, when the railway mileage was increased to 54. In 1851 the mileage had grown to 159 and in 1861 to 2,146. At Confederation, in 1867, the mileage was 2,288. The total railway mileage of Canada at the beginning of each decade from 1871 to 1911 and in 1917 was as follows: 1871, 2,695; 1881, 7,331; 1891, 13,838; 1901, 18,140; 1911, 25,400; 1917, 38,604, according to the Canada Year Book for 1918, issued by the Census and Statistic Office.

FOREST REGENERATION AND SURVEY WORK

To continue the work begun last summer by Dr. C. D. Howe, of the Commission of Conservation, Forestry Department, three surveying parties have been sent out in behalf of the Commission, in charge of forestry experts, to the pulpwood limits of the Laurentide, Riordon, and Abitibi Pulp and Paper Companies. Their work will be that of ascertaining the rate of growth and reproduction of pulp species in the limits that have been cut over, and that of securing data as to the natural replacing of the forest. The work is known as the Forest Regeneration Survey work of the Commission of Conservation.

CONSERVATION COM'N. AND FOREST SURVEY

The Conservation Commission has announced that it will again co-operate with and give assistance to the Government of New Brunswick in its forest survey and land classification work which has been going on for some time and will be continued this summer. Mr. F. C. Nunnick, of the Commission, has under his direction the Commission's part in this work. It is the intention to classify the land according to its suitability for agriculture, to ensure that land set apart for settlement is fertile and in other respects the proper kind of land for farming. The forest survey work undertaken is very complete.

Motor Vehicles in Canada.

The Canada Year Book for 1918, prepared by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, states that the total number of motor vehicles registered for all Canada in 1918 is 275,746, as compared with 69,598 in 1914, an increase of 296 per cent in four years. In 1914 the number of motor cars registered in Ontario was 535; in 1918 the number was 114,376. In Quebec province the number has grown from 254 in 1907 to 26,897 in 1918. For Saskatchewan the number of registered automobiles has increased from 8,020 in 1914 to 50,531 in 1918. In Alberta there were only 41 automobiles registered in 1906; in 1918 the number was 29,300.

Homestead Entries.

In 1917 the total number of ordinary homestead entries for lands of the Dominion Government was 8,768, as compared with 12,568 in 1916, 17,532 in 1915, and 25,623 in 1914, according to the Canada Year Book for 1918, published by the Dominion Statistician.

Naturalization in 1917.

The naturalizations affected under the Naturalization Act for the twelve months ended December 31, 1917, numbered 9,029. Of these, 5,192 were formerly citizens of the United States, as stated in the Canadian Year Book for 1918, issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

CANADA MAY SEND PULP AND PAPER TO ENGLAND

New Paper Regulations in Old Country gives Preference to Empire Products of this class over Foreign Manufactures, according to C. T. C. advices

Further proof of the benefit to Canadian trade of the new British policy of preference to goods from within the Empire is supplied by a cablegram received by the Canadian Trade Commission at Ottawa from the Canadian Mission in London, in reply to an inquiry concerning the pulp and paper trade position. The cable states that a general effect of the new regulation is to limit considerably the importation of writing and printing paper, newsprint, cardboard, and stationery from foreign countries, and adds textually: "The new paper regulations do not affect Canada."

The British Board of Trade announces that the importation of paper and manufactures of paper from non-British countries shall continue to be prohibited except under special license, but that the importation of paper manufactured

within the British Empire is free of license. In addition it is stated that the Board of Trade will only grant licenses to import such qualities and descriptions of paper as cannot be obtained in sufficient quantities within the Empire, or when prices for these classes advance so as to be unreasonable. The regulations on imports from foreign countries are based upon percentages of the tonnage of paper imported after April 30. Printed matter, including forms, writing paper, calendar, and show cards, Christmas cards and other such printing, including toy books which were formerly so largely imported from Germany, will be almost totally prohibited in Great Britain, if coming from foreign countries. The regulation protecting the buyer from unreasonable prices through the power to increase the licenses is a novel feature of the new British policy of restriction.

IS CANADIAN DIRECTOR FOR FOOD SUPPLIES

Dr. J. W. Robertson appointed to look after sale of Canadian food stuffs in Europe during reconstruction days.

The food situation in Europe has been engaging the close attention of the Supreme Economic Council, which was created by the Allies some time ago to supervise the economic, and particularly the food conditions, in respect to relations with neutral and enemy countries. This Council will have largely to do with the distribution of food supplies until conditions in Europe get back to a normal and stable basis.

Canada's interest in this whole matter has been receiving the attention of Dr. J. W. Robertson, who has been in close consultation at all times with Sir Robert Borden, says a statement issued by the Department of Agriculture. The Prime Minister has cabled that a short time ago a proposal was made that Canada should appoint a Canadian Director of Food Supplies, who could keep closely in touch with the whole food situation. This proposal was agreed to and Canada was asked to appoint a representative, whose official title should be Canadian Director of Foodstuffs. This, of course, has reference only to the sale of Canadian agricultural products in Europe during the reconstruction period that Europe is now passing through.

Dr. Robertson has been asked, and has agreed, to accept this position, by which he becomes a member of the Food Section of the Supreme Economic Council, and, in the absence of Sir George Foster, may take his place as a member of the Supreme Economic Council itself.

This places Dr. Robertson in a position of equality to the other representatives of the allied countries in the Food Section of the Economic Council, and, as a result, he will be able to keep intimately in touch with the sale and distribution of foodstuffs generally in Europe, and look well after Canada's interest in relation thereto.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS FROM LATEST REPORT

Eighty-four in every Hundred Persons found guilty were First Offenders

Of the 15,559 persons found guilty of indictable offences in 1917, eighty-four in every hundred convicted were sentenced for the first time, nine for the second time, and seven were habitual criminals, as stated in the last report on Canadian criminal statistics, issued by the Dominion Statistician.

The occupation of the offenders, according to classes is thus represented per 100: agricultural, 10; commercial, 17; domestic, 16; industrial, 11; professional, 5; and labourers, 41. Seventy-one per cent of the offenders were unmarried, 28 per cent married, and 1 per cent widowed; 91 per cent had an elementary education, 3 per cent a superior education, and 6 per cent were unable to read or write. Eighty-eight per cent were reported from urban and 12 per cent from rural districts.

Sixty-two in every 100 were born in Canada, 11 in British territory outside of Canada, 7 in the United States, and 20 in other foreign countries.

Buy Thrift Stamps.

REALTY OPERATORS AND SOLDIERS' SETTLEMENT

District Officers of Boards to Prevent Charging Higher Prices

Chairman Black, of the Soldier Settlement Board, has issued instructions to the district officers of the Board to prevent real estate operators, especially in the Western provinces, charging soldier settlers a greater price for land than its real value. It has been brought to the attention of the Chairman that certain firms are attempting to sell land on the prairies under the following conditions: They state a price for a half section, in one case of \$8,000. This is a very big price on that particular land, even for time payments. The Board's Inspector valued the better quarter section at \$3,200 cash. Thereupon the firm selling advanced the price of the second quarter section, which has been sold to the settler on crop payment, a sum equal to the amount which was deducted from the other quarter section by the Board's Inspector.

The Soldier Settlement Board considers this a reprehensible practice and proposes to take such action as may be necessary to defeat land owners who "hold up" a soldier settler who may wish to purchase a quarter section adjoining his own. Mr. Black has issued the following instructions: "Where a soldier buys land from the Board and an additional area on crop payment or otherwise, the Board will not complete sale to him of the land which he requires from us, nor make additional loan for stock and equipment until it has been assumed that the land purchased from private parties is worth the price which he has agreed to pay for it and it is a desirable purchase for him to make. Otherwise the Board's security will be greatly weakened and the possibility of the settler's success decreased. This Board urges the adoption of this plan as a fixed policy."

CONTRACTS AWARDED BY ORDER IN COUNCIL

The Department of Public Works announces the following Contracts awarded under Order in Council:—

Toronto.—Supply and installation of fittings in the office of the Assistant Receiver General. Contractors: John C. Gilchrist Lumber Company, Limited, of Toronto, at \$1,850. Order in Council dated April 29, 1919.

Montreal.—Excavation and foundation work for new Federal Building proposed to be constructed next to existing Examining Warehouse Building situated on McGill street. Contractors: P. Lyall & Sons Construction Company, Limited, of Montreal, at \$79,000. Order in Council dated May 1, 1919.

PER CAPITA VALUE OF CANADIAN TRADE

The per capita value of the total trade of Canada, which was only \$35.50 in 1868, has risen steadily until in 1917 it reached the highest point, with \$242.14 per head, as stated in the Canada Year Book for 1918, issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Fire Protection Convention.

The National Fire Protection Association recently held its twenty-third annual meeting in Ottawa, the first time such a meeting has been held outside the United States. It was due to the suggestion of the "Commission of Conservation, whose service in behalf of fire protection is recognized by the association, that the meeting was held in Ottawa. The association was addressed by Sir Clifford Sifton, chairman of the Commission, and by the assistant to the chairman and deputy head, James White.

Get the Thrift Stamp habit.