

NOW RECORDING REQUESTS FOR SEED GRAIN

*Branch of the Department of
the Interior Working Under
New System Designed to
Assist Settler.*

HOW METHOD WORKS

The Revenue Seed Grain Office of the Department of the Interior is at present engaged in the receiving and recording of applications for seed grain from the holders of unpatented Dominion lands under the new system which was put into effect for this year's advances.

In an endeavour to effect a saving in distribution and collection expenses it was decided at a conference held at the instance of the Hon. Arthur Meighen, Minister of the Interior, with the western provincial governments and the co-operation of the Canadian Bankers' Association, that the Government would guarantee to the bank payment of the advances made to holders of unpatented Dominion lands.

The system in operation is that the settler makes application to the secretary-treasurer of the municipality in which he resides, or, if the district be unorganized, to the provincial officer of the Department in his district.

SOLD TO FARMER AT COST.

The application is verified both by the secretary-treasurer and the Agent of Dominion Lands, who then forwards same to the Chief Inspector of Dominion Land Agencies, Winnipeg, who, if he approves, forwards the liens given on the unpatented entry, in conjunction with which the banks take the usual note used by them on advances of this nature. The settler is then in a position to purchase the seed from whomsoever he knows has the right class for his use, and in localities where there is no grain suitable for seed available locally, the Department of Agriculture is arranging for shipments to be sold to the farmers at cost.

The rate of interest on these advances is 7 per cent.

The Government guarantees the bank for the principal and 5 per cent interest only. The bank undertakes the collection and receives the sum of 1 per cent from the Government on the collections actually made up to and including the 1st of January, 1920.

The Minister was confident that this arrangement would save considerably in distribution and collection expenses, and the results, as far as the giving of these advances has gone, fully justify his confidence in this regard.

RECORDS KEPT IN OTTAWA.

All the necessary recording, registration and keeping of records in connection with these advances has been done at Ottawa in the Revenue Seed Grain Office, which is under the jurisdiction of the Controller of Revenue of the Department of the Interior, Mr. Geo. D. Pope.

PENSIONS STILL WAITING

The following pensions have been awarded, but the pensioner's address is unknown to the Board of Pension Commissioners:—

Sgt. Loraine Mooney, 28th Battalion, Pension Board No. 14979.
Pte. Harry Worrall, 11th C.M.R., Pension Board No. 49731.
Sapper James Ullock, 3rd Tunnelling Company, Pension Board No. 4176 G.
Pte. James Saltern, 3rd C.C.D.D., Pension Board No. 52939.
Pte. Richard Bennett, 2nd S.S. Company, Pension Board No. 24383.
Pte. Phillip Kay, 211th Battalion, Pension Board No. 36507.
Pte. Ephraim Gold, 2nd Battalion, Pension Board No. 55709.
Pte. William Bussens, 87th Battalion, Pension Board No. 37828.
Pte. William Ward, 67th Battalion, Pension Board No. 20040.
Pte. Percy Endall, No. 5 C.G.H., Pension Board No. 4053 G.
Gnr. Harold Marsden, 6th Battery, Pension Board No. 42072.
Pte. Thomas Robinson, 57th Battalion, Pension Board No. 55761.
Pte. George Martin, 62nd Battalion, Pension Board No. 38086.
Cpl. Arthur Gray, Welland Canal Force, Pension Board No. 48076.
Pte. Edward Neidig, No. 2 District Depot, Pension Board No. 52622.

The collection in connection with the large distribution of seed grain, fodder and relief made in the season of 1914-15 has been carried on successfully, as out of a total of approximately twelve and a half million dollars advanced the Department has collected in the neighbourhood of 75 per cent.

It will be remembered that under the conditions existing after the crop failure of 1914 it was necessary for the Dominion Government to come to the relief of the settlers with seed grain, fodder, and relief, not only making the advances to the settlers on unpatented land, but also to holders of patented land. Contracts were made with the Saskatchewan and Alberta Governments, by which the Dominion Government was permitted to take security on the land, which security took priority over first mortgages, taxes, etc.

While this caused some difficulty in the beginning, it has now been worked out satisfactorily.

The taking of security on patented land has entailed a tremendous amount of correspondence, brought about by the fact that to insure the safety of the monies advanced by the Dominion Government the legislation provided was wide in its effect.

RESULTS JUSTIFY PLAN.

That the Dominion Government was fully justified in going into this matter of making advances to settlers on patented and unpatented lands can be best measured by the estimated crop grown from the seed distributed by the Government, which amounted to about 75,000,000 bushels wheat, 210,000,000 bushels oats, and 500,000 bushels barley. These figures show the incalculable good the distribution did in the way of providing food not only for the Motherland, but for the Allied countries at a period in the world's history when the need was greatest.

There is another point in favour of the Government's action in 1914-15, which will be of lasting benefit to the Dominion's western country: namely, it enabled the settlers to put a larger acreage under cultivation and increased the crops of the succeeding years considerably, which they would have been unable to have done had not the Government made this liberal provision, with the result that Canada was in a position to maintain her exports of cereals during the war period.

HELP SOLDIER SETTLERS.

Arrangements have also been perfected with the Soldier Settlement

Pte. Thomas White, 44th Regt., Welland Force, Pension Board No. 14120 G.
Pte. Joseph King, No. 10 District Depot, Pension Board No. 51615.
Dvr. Ambrose Collings, No. 1 District Depot, Pension Board No. 52586.
Pte. Edward Rademaker, No. 2 Casualty, Pension Board No. 52874.
Pte. Frederic Gill, 94th Battalion, Pension Board No. 52294.
Pte. Archibald Baxter, No. 12 District Depot.
Sgt. J. Plamondon, 69th Battalion, Pension Board No. 38898.
Pte. Walter Liddell, 103rd Battalion, Pension Board No. 45025.
Pte. Dixon Dalton, No. 10 District Depot, Pension Board No. 52388.
Pte. Henry Ricketts, 2nd C.G.R., Pension Board No. 53836.
Pte. Alex. Walker, No. 10 District Depot, Pension Board No. 48469.
Pte. Harry Powis, 176th Battalion, Pension Board No. 12550.
Pte. Alexander D. Donaldson, No. 12 D.D.
Pte. Lewis L. Lance, "H" Unit, M.H.C.C.
Pte. George L. Landry, 7th C.C.R.
Pte. Lauda Parent, 57th, 69th, and 22nd Battalions.
Pte. Frank Adcock, 23rd Res. Battalion.
Pte. John H. Hennessey, 10th C.U.
Pte. John Haltby, 16th Battalion.

Board in connection with the advances of this year, whereby returned soldiers can take advantage of these advances guaranteed by the Government.

The general policy of making advances of seed grain on unpatented Dominion lands is sound, as it has been the means of retaining on the land men who have proven to be our best farmers and a great many of whom to-day are our leading citizens, as an advance made to a new settler in a year when he has little, if any, capital is timely and goes a long way to assisting the worthy settler to establish himself.

SEED CONTROL ACT STRICTLY ENFORCED

Canadian farmers and gardeners are protected from the evils of planting inferior seed of many kinds of crops imported from other countries. By an Order in Council that came into effect in the autumn, importation is prohibited of unfit seed of clovers, grasses, vetches, rape, other forage plants, field root and garden vegetables in lots of ten pounds or more.

In Pamphlet S-12 of the Seed Branch of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa, and obtainable from the Publications Branch, unfit seed is described as that which does not comply with the Seed Control Act requirements respecting the sale of seed in Canada, or if it has been refused admittance into any other country on account of low vitality.

The regulations will be carried out through the Custom's officials, who are required to take and forward to the Dominion Seed Laboratory for examination sample of lots of seeds of the classes named entered for consumption in Canada. Seed that has arrived in Canada and found to be unfit shall be deported under Customs supervision. The penalty for failing to comply with these regulations is \$500 for the first offence and not exceeding \$1,000 for the second and each subsequent offence.

Lobster Catch Declines.

The annual catch of lobsters has declined from 31 pounds per trap in 1897 to 12 pounds per trap in 1917, as shown by the special report on lobster fishing recently issued by the Fisheries Branch of the Department of Naval Service.

W.S. Stamps pay 4½% compounded.

LITTLE BARREN LAND ALONG PEACE RIVER

Report on District Issued by Department of Interior Describes Territory.

According to a report on the Peace River district, just published by the Department of the Interior, this district, the drainage basin of the Peace River, lies in the northern parts of Alberta and British Columbia, and extends approximately from latitude 54 degrees to 59 degrees north and from longitude 112 degrees to 125 degrees east. It is a part of the great Mackenzie River basin. Falling away from the Rocky Mountains, it embraces a part of their eastern slope, and sweeps eastward and northward over a huge plateau extending to Lake Athabaska and the Athabaska and Slave rivers. The area of the Peace River drainage basin is over 115,000 square miles, of which 66,395 square miles are in Alberta and 49,367 square miles in British Columbia. There are in the district 74,087,680 acres—42,492,800 in Alberta and 31,594,880 in British Columbia.

DISTRICT VERY FERTILE.

The report states that the climate is excellent, with winters remarkably moderate considering the latitude, and an average rainfall for the whole year of about 12 or 13 inches. The soil of the greater part of the district is especially suitable to the growing of grains, grasses, and vegetables, according to the report. The valleys of the upper sections are very rich in river silt and black and sandy clay loams. Clay, sandy clay, and black loam, with a subsoil of the same, are the prevailing soils of the entire district, and the usual run of soil is free from alkali and well adapted to growing wheat. The district, generally speaking, is level, or slightly rolling. There is very little gravelly land, and field stones and small boulders are found only in restricted areas, and even there in small numbers. Generally speaking, the entire district is exceedingly fertile, the percentage of barren land being practically nothing, says the report, which was prepared by F. H. Kitto, D.L.S., A.M. Can. Soc. C.E.

The district is well watered by numerous rivers and streams of pure water. Where homesteads have no stream, good water is easily obtained by digging or boring wells. The Edmonton, Dunvegan, and British Columbia Railway penetrates the district, and on both sides of the railway the country has been opened up to a considerable extent by wagon roads. The railway runs north from Edmonton to Grande Prairie. Mail is carried twice a week from Edmonton to McLennan, Peace River, Spirit River, and Grande Prairie. From railway points it is distributed by carriers to various post offices throughout the district. The Dominion Government also operates a telegraph service and the Government of Alberta operates a rural telephone system. The district is already well settled, and the towns that have sprung up along the railway lines are growing fast. The district produces a considerable amount of grain, dairy products, and live stock. It has considerable resources of timber, minerals, water-power, and fish and game.

Natural Gas in West.

In Alberta four important gas fields have been discovered: the Medicine Hat, Bow Island, Viking, and Pelican Rapid fields. In the Medicine Hat fields there are 33 wells, with an approximate capacity "open flow" of from 90,000,000 to 92,000,000 cubic feet per day. This natural gas is used for lighting and for fuel. The largest well has been reported to have a capacity of 6,000,000 feet per day. The tested portion of this field has an area of about 30 square miles, as shown by a pamphlet entitled "Fuels of Western Canada," by James White, assistant to the chairman and deputy head of the Commission of Conservation.

Get the W.S.S. habit.