

EXTRA CREDIT FOR EMPLOYMENT OFFICES

Federal Government to Give Further Assistance to Provincial Centres.

Additional credit of \$30,000 is placed to the Department of Labour in order that the co-ordination of provincial and federal employment offices may continue close association during the period of reconstruction. It was agreed by the Government that payment would be made by Ottawa of half the amount expended for the maintenance of provincial offices. The expenditure of some provinces have been on a larger scale than contemplated, and therefore the subventions from the Dominion Government are increased under the following Order in Council passed on March 12:—

The committee of the Privy Council have had before them a report, dated 10th March, 1919, from the Minister of Labour, stating that the signing of the armistice caused the closing down of numerous centres of munitions manufacture, and this fact and the subsequent demobilization of overseas troops in continually increasing numbers, have created considerable unemployment. The establishment, by co-operation between the Dominion and provincial governments under the terms of the Employment Offices Co-ordination Act, of employment offices throughout the Dominion is believed to have materially assisted employers and workmen in getting into close contact with each other and to have in this way, lessened the evil of unemployment. At a conference held at Ottawa shortly after the signing of the armistice, between the prime ministers or other members of the provincial governments and the members of the Dominion government, the consensus of opinion was that the subventions paid to provincial governments which co-operated with the Dominion government for the purposes of the Employment Offices Co-ordination Act should be, during the period of reconstruction, equal to one-half the amount expended for the maintenance of employment offices by each province,—the total amount of such subventions not being limited to the sum named in the statute in question which, for the fiscal year 1918-19, is \$50,000; the reconstruction period for this purpose, being deemed to extend to April 30, 1920.

The minister further states that the expenditures in the case of several provinces for the purposes of the Employment Offices Co-ordination Act have been on a scale larger than had been contemplated prior to the signing of the armistice, and the subventions from the Dominion government should be increased beyond the scale contemplated in the Employment Offices Co-ordination Act and should equal one-half the amount expended for the maintenance of employment offices by the respective provinces.

The minister, therefore, recommends that an amount estimated at \$30,000 be placed to the credit of the Department of Labour from the War Appropriation for the purposes of making subventions to various provinces on the basis above stated, the said sum of \$30,000 being over and above the appropriation of \$50,000 named in the statute for the fiscal year 1918-19.

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

RODOLPHE BOUDREAU,
Clerk of the Privy Council.

1918 Consumption of Coal Oil and Gasolene.

According to inspection returns of the Department of Inland Revenue, the total quantity of illuminating oils inspected during the calendar year 1918 was 55,443,056 gallons, and the quantity of naphtha or gasolene and other light oils was 74,310,352 gallons.

MAIN TERMS OF BRITISH ORDER FOR EMPIRE PREFERENCE.

The following are the main terms of the British order giving preferential import treatment into Great Britain of goods of Empire origin, contained in a cablegram received by the Canadian Trade Commission, Ottawa:

"It has been decided to remove all restrictions on the importation into the United Kingdom of goods which are exported from and are the produce or manufacture of the British Dominions, except in the case of: (1) Gold or articles containing gold, except when consigned direct to the Bank of England; (2) Spirits, other than brandy and rum; and (3) Hops.

MUST BE NOTIFIED OF ENGAGEMENT

Civil Service Regulations Amended regarding Tem- porary Employment.

An amendment to the Regulations of the Civil Service Commission has been made by an Order in Council passed on March 12, as follows:—

His Excellency the Governor General in Council, on the recommendation of the Secretary of State, is pleased to order and it is hereby ordered as follows:—

Clause 26 of the Regulations of the Civil Service Commission is hereby amended as follows:—

When employees are required on short notice for emergency work, the responsible agent or official of the department requiring such extra assistance may engage the necessary employees, and the said officer, in each case where the employment is likely to extend beyond thirty days, shall report to the Commission, through the deputy head of the department, the names of the persons so employed, the character of their previous employment, the terms of their employment, by whom last employed, references, age, evidence as to character, and the rate of compensation to be paid them. No such employment shall extend beyond thirty days unless the Commission shall issue a certificate. The report of the appointing officer shall be accompanied by the following declaration:—

- That the employment of each such person is necessary for the efficient carrying on of the work of the department.
- That the selection has been made without reference to the personal or political considerations, and strictly on the merit principle as between persons applying or available for such positions.
- That such persons have satisfied the appointing officer as to their qualifications.
- That they are suitable as to age, character and habits.
- That they are not transferred from any other department or branch of the Civil Service.
- That the salary or wages paid are fair and reasonable, and do not exceed the rates approved by the department or prescribed by the Civil Service Act, 1918.

RODOLPHE BOUDREAU,
Clerk of the Privy Council.

REDUCTION FOR SOLDIERS ON FARM IMPLEMENTS

Chairman of Soldiers' Settlement Board Announces Favourable Arrangements have been made with Manufacturers and their Agents.

Soldiers who participate in the benefits of the land settlement provisions will have the advantage of considerable reductions in price on the purchase of agricultural implements, live stock, and harness, Mr. W. J. Black, chairman of the Soldier Settlement Board, announces. Very favourable arrangements have been made with manufacturers of implements and harness, by which soldiers will be given a wide range of choice of first-class implements at prices substantially below those quoted to civilians. The manufacturers also have guaranteed that soldier settlers will receive from any of their agents the same service and consideration in the setting up of their machinery and in supplying repairs and spare parts as is given civilians who pay the regular retail price.

In the Prairie Provinces arrangements have also been made with United Grain Growers, Limited, whereby soldier settlers will receive special prices on agricultural implements, harness, wagons, and any other commodities carried by the company. The company will place at the disposal of the soldiers its 320 elevator points as distributing centres.

The Soldier Settlement Board will not sanction the purchase by soldiers of implements at prices greater than those quoted through these concessions; and while every encouragement will be given to the purchase by settlers of second-hand machinery, this must be carried out under the supervision of the Board.

With regard to harness, specifications and suggestions were obtained from a number of agricultural experts, including Prof. Rutherford, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Provincial University, Saskatoon; G. H. Hutton, superintendent, Experimental Farm, Lacombe, Alta.; M. J. Tinline, superintendent, Experimental Farm, Scott, Sask.; and a number of leading farmers. The Board has secured a standard set of harness that will fill all the requirements of general farm work and save a duplication. This standard harness will be sold to settlers throughout Canada at an average price of about \$32.50. The Board has also secured from the leading harness manufacturers in Canada substantial reductions in general lines of harness, blankets, and accessories.

PURCHASE OF STOCK.

Arrangements also have been made whereby stock, particularly horses, will be purchased through the Board's own agent, a man of outstanding ability and integrity. This stock will be assembled at the following points in the West: Winnipeg and Regina exhibition grounds, Edmonton and Calgary stockyards, and at other convenient points. The Live Stock Branch of the Department of Agriculture is assisting the Board by placing at its disposal its

entire personnel in the West to act in an advisory capacity and to assist settlers in the selection of cattle, sheep, and swine. Settlers will have the opportunity of selecting their own horses from the large numbers assembled at the points mentioned. The horses will be tagged with their prices. Settlers will be able to procure serviceable teams at an average of about \$350. Further, they will have the opportunity of putting their teams in harness and satisfying themselves that they are what they want before concluding purchase.

All stock purchased through the Board is absolutely guaranteed. In Eastern Canada, where it is not necessary to assemble stock, settlers will be advised and assisted in making their purchases by expert stockmen of the locality.

LUMBER AT COST.

Twelve hundred retail lumber merchants in the three Prairie Provinces will co-operate with the Soldier Settlement Board by giving soldiers who go on the land wholesale prices for lumber required for permanent improvements, plus the bare cost of unloading, handling, and other charges. This arrangement has been made by representatives of the Board with the Western Retail Lumbermen's Association on behalf of the retailers.

The new prices for soldier settlers apply to material of stock sizes. The association maintains an architectural staff which is familiar with building operations in Western Canada, and this service department has been placed at the disposal of the Soldier Settlement Board.

In granting this substantial reduction in price to soldier settlers, the Western Retail Lumbermen's Association writes that the lumber dealers recognize that the supplying of equipped farms to soldiers is a purely reconstructive measure which can be helped or hindered by the attitude which the local retail dealer maintains toward the undertaking. They realize further that an attempt to bring materials direct from the mills would entail a loss of time and serious inconvenience to the soldier, and, further, that unnecessary expense in handling and trans-shipment would be entailed if the Board attempted to gather the materials at central points and distribute them.

BUILDING PLANS WERE SUPPLIED TO FARMERS

In connection with the work of assisting by means of correspondence inquiring farmers along the lines of maintenance of live stock, increasing production, methods of breeding, and general management for improved health and increased profits, carried on by the Animal Husbandry Division of the Department of Agriculture, over 500 complete plans of modern farm buildings to suit the individual needs of farmers requesting them, as well as specifications and other data, were sent out by the division during the last fiscal year, according to the current report of the Minister of Agriculture.

Magnesite Production in 1918.

The total shipments of Canadian magnesite in 1918 were 39,365 tons, valued at \$1,016,765, as given in the Preliminary Report of the Mineral Production of Canada, issued recently by the Mines Branch, Department of Mines.