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for a - -**

**Peaceful and
Prosperous
New Year
To All**

Dominion Loan For Great Housing Scheme

Minister Announces that \$25,000,000 is set aside

Will Mean Better Conditions for Industrial Population and Help to Make up for Stoppage of Building During the War

The Government has created a fund of \$25,000,000, which will be available by way of a loan to the several provincial governments in Canada in connection with the carrying out of programmes for better housing through municipalities or otherwise.

"In the Order in Council authorizing the transaction, a statement says: 'The Minister of Finance points out that at the conference recently held at Ottawa between the premiers and other members of the governments of the several provinces and representatives of the Dominion Government one of the most important subjects of discussion was that of creating better housing conditions for the industrial population of our large centres. The minister points out that, owing to the practical cessation of building operations during the war, there is at present a scarcity of housing accommodation in most of our cities, and this condition will become intensified with the return of our soldiers from overseas and their re-establishment with their families in civil life and occupation.'

Plans of Provinces

"The Minister further points out that at the conference it developed that some of the provincial governments were considering the adoption of a policy of making loans to municipalities or otherwise extending over a long period and repayable upon the amortization plan, for the purpose of promoting the erection of dwelling houses of a modern character to relieve congestion of population in cities and towns in their respective provinces, and the question was raised as to whether the Dominion Government would aid the several provincial governments in carrying out such a policy by making loans to them to place them, to the extent that might be necessary, in funds for that purpose.

The recommendations of the Minister are given in detail below.

Of Great Importance

Speaking of the action of the government, Sir Thomas White said that apart from the recognised value of better housing from the standpoint of national health, comfort, and morality, the problem was of exceptional importance at the time because the carrying out of a vigorous policy of better housing by the provincial and municipal governments would find employment during the reconstruction period for a great army of artisans and workmen. The building trades in all branches, when fully occupied, always require a large amount of labor, skilled and unskilled. If plans for model house construction for industrial workers should be taken up at once by municipalities having congested areas of population, a great deal of employment would be afforded during the coming winter in getting prepared the necessary material for beginning construction in the spring. This would beneficially affect the lumber industry, carpentering, plumbing and other trades. A considerable amount of actual construction could be done during the winter.

Rate of Interest Low

The Dominion Government had fixed a rate of interest lower than at which it was able at present to borrow money. It felt justified in doing this owing to the national importance of the matter, and as a contribution towards carrying out of programmes of better housing by the provincial governments and municipalities throughout the Dominion. It was recognised that a low rate of interest to borrowers was of vital importance in making better housing schemes effectual. It was necessary also that the loans should be for a long period in order that the amortization of principal should not impose too heavy an annual burden upon the borrowers.

The minister stated that in his view the immediate benefit resulting from the creation of better housing facilities would be to the municipalities immediately concerned and the provinces in which they were situated. In his view, there should be no hesitation on the part of municipalities in proceeding with better housing programmes, provided the congestion in their industrial areas warranted such action. The question of risk of loss was of minor importance, having regard to the ultimate benefit to the communities concerned and the desirability of affording employment in advantageous undertakings during the reconstruction period. He hoped that with the financial means provided provinces and municipalities would at once proceed to formulate and actively carry out a policy of providing better housing.

Provinces are Favorable

Sir Thomas White has been in close touch with certain of the provincial governments which are known to be favorable to the prosecution of a vigorous programme in the construction of model houses for industrial workers. It is not known whether the provincial governments will confine themselves to making loans to municipalities or will engage otherwise in carrying out their policies. It is thought they will prefer to act through the municipalities which, as pointed out by Sir Thomas White, are immediately concerned, and would be the chief beneficiaries of the carrying out of a better housing policy.

Large Area Cultivated

OVER THREE THOUSAND ACRES
YIELD 26,747 TONS OF PRODUCE
TO B. C.

Vegetable and Animal Products From Small Areas Realize \$2,222,512

Compilation of statistics relative to the extent of agricultural food production on city and suburban lots in British Columbia in 1918, has just been completed by the statistician of the provincial department of agriculture. The method employed in the gathering of this necessary data upon which the official return is based, was a census by means of card schedules. The total number of cards distributed were 31,393, and the number filled out and returned, 9,770.

The total area of vegetables produced by small-lot cultivation was 3,233 acres, with a total yield of 26,747 tons, which amounts to 14.9 per cent of the total October provisional estimate for the entire province in 1918. The total value of these crops is estimated to be \$869,240.

The total lineal measurement of growing vegetables was 12,487 miles. The total yield would make a freight train load of 1486 cars extending for eleven and a quarter miles.

The total value of animal and vegetable products from small plots was \$2,222,512. Poultry and eggs alone are valued at \$852,114, and the figure for dairy products is set at \$314,925. Three thousand four hundred and thirty-three vacant lots were placed under cultivation throughout the province, Greater Victoria being credited with 1091 and Greater Vancouver (including Burnaby), with 834.

Victoria has the largest areas in vegetables, there being 233.3 acres as against 196.2 acres in Nanaimo and 127 in Vancouver. Of the suburban centres, Saanich leads with 348.8 acres, or 10.8 per cent of the total urban and suburban area in the province.

WIDE AWAKE SCHOOL IDEA

Yellow Grass, Sask., educationalists are shortly to undertake a new co-operative school farm. The plan, which is now under way, is to purchase one or two acres of land immediately adjoining the present school grounds and cultivate it by raising vegetables of all kinds, which will be sold. Shares will be sold to the pupils of the school or their parents at \$1 each, no one person being allowed to purchase more than two shares. In families where there are two or more children, shares may be purchased for each child. Parents may purchase shares ahead for children not yet attending school.