

POSTMASTER-GENERAL DISCUSSES QUESTION OF REPATRIATING MEN

Hon. P. E. Blondin reviews steps taken by Government to deal successfully with difficult problems

SKETCHES ORGANIZATION

Lieut.-Col. the Hon. P. E. Blondin, Postmaster General, has contributed to the February number of "Back to Mufti," the new monthly publication of the Repatriation Committee, an article showing how the questions of demobilization and repatriation are being dealt with by the Government, and their difficulties overcome. The article appears in "Back to Mufti" in the French language, but it is reprinted here in an English translation, as follows:—

"The question of repatriation and the return of the soldier to civil life had already received the most energetic attention on the part of the Government long before the armistice came. We were not to be taken by surprise when peace came, and it would not have done for the soldier, victor in war, to have been vanquished in peace for the lack of foresight on his behalf. From the commencement of the war, the task of re-establishing the soldier according to his wishes and qualifications was the constant care of the Government, and, moreover, ever since the dawn of peace the extensive and complicated machinery of demobilization was started with speed and harmony. It will doubtless interest the public to become acquainted with the details of this organization, and if you will allow me I will sketch you a brief outline.

HE EXPLAINS METHODS.

"We have to bring back from Europe somewhere about 400,000 men, women, and children, as speedily as shipping conditions will permit, and to provide them with homes and work in factory or field, according to their choice under judicious direction. For this purpose five departments directly concerned have been constituted as a Committee of the Privy Council to supervise this work. These departments are: the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, whose minister is the Hon. Sir James Loughheed; the Department of Immigration and Colonization (Hon. Mr. Calder); Labour (Hon. Mr. Robertson); Agriculture (Hon. Mr. Crerar); and Interior (Hon. Mr. Meighen). This Committee, whose function is incidentally to co-ordinate the work of all voluntary organizations, and which includes in its membership the President of the Privy Council, is called the Committee of Repatriation and Employment, with H. J. Daly, a well-known business man, as director. To carry out the measures adopted by the Committee, the Department of Labour, acting with the Provincial Governments, has established demobilization employment offices at all dispersal stations. These are the centres of the twenty-one dispersal areas formed for demobilization by the Department of Militia and Defence. As will be seen, the Dominion and provincial authorities are still further co-operating in the service of returned men.

"The land owned by the Dominion Government has been put at the disposal of the soldier who wishes to take up land, and an understanding has been made between the Provincial and Dominion Governments to also place at his disposal vacant or disposable lands in every province, that the prospective settler may have a full choice of locality in which to settle. By virtue of this understanding, farms will be provided for the soldiers throughout Canada, the only guarantee practically being asked for being one of good faith and the necessary qualifications in agriculture.

The Dominion Government will give credit to the provinces for the purchase of these lands, and in addition will give each man a loan not exceeding \$2,500 to allow him to adequately equip himself and start in on a firm footing. For two years the soldier will have no payments to make on his loan, and the terms of payment for the following years are made as easy as possible.

CITY POSITIONS FOR SOLDIERS.

"A considerable number will prefer city life and will elect to place themselves in different trades and industries for an office service. For these, the Government has already made a start by facilitating their way to all posts in the Civil Service, giving them preference over all competitors subject to relatively easy standards of examination. The Provincial Governments have been invited to follow suit, and an appeal is now being launched to municipalities, and to large institutions, of a commercial, manufacturing or financial nature, to obtain their co-operation on the same lines. To assist the employer, the Dominion and Provincial Governments have agreed to keep up, at their own expense, employment offices in all cities in the Dominion having a population of over 10,000. In order to ensure a demand for labour, the Dominion Government will devote several millions expenditure on the more essential public works. A Trade Commission in Ottawa has been linked with the overseas organization which disposes of the orders coming from Allied countries, and will soon distribute considerable contracts which will allow the different industries to carry on and to gather work for their employees.

"Spacious hospitals of the most modern type, and with the latest equipment, are provided for wounded and disabled men, and courses of re-education have been organized throughout Canada to accommodate such seriously disabled men as are entitled to a special course.

"It is natural that many should think that the son or dear one whose return they have waited so long is slow in coming, but in all justice the public must try and take into account the difficulties of transport and the necessity of keeping pace in the work in Canada with the demobilization of our men overseas. Before leaving France or England, the soldier makes a statement of what work he wishes to take up on his return, and his intentions are immediately communicated to the authorities in this country who take steps to provide for him on his return along the lines indicated. Already for a considerable time, the work of re-education and the preparation of the soldier for his return to civil life has been carried on in England, and even back of the lines with the co-operation of French and English educational authorities.

CO-OPERATION IS NECESSARY.

"The brief outline that I have given may serve to show how necessary is the co-operation of every citizen in the national task of fulfilling the first and most important duty that follows victory, that of caring for and providing for the soldier who has so freely offered his life for the liberty and safety of all. I would therefore voice an appeal to the heads of all industries not only to co-operate with the Dominion and Provincial Governments in this matter but in that co-operation to labour with the same spirit which has inspired the Governments themselves, the spirit of appreciation not only of the debt of honour which we owe to the soldier, but also to the state of mind in which his suffering and sacrifice have left him after four years' absence from his country and of a life which has undoubtedly impaired his habits and point of view as a civilian."

WASTE IN FORESTS.

In a bulletin, issued by the Forestry Branch, Department of the Interior, it is stated, in referring to wastes in wood manufacture, that 25 per cent of the volume of all trees cut is left on the ground in the form of "cull" logs, tops and stumps, and that after the sawlogs reach the mill, fifty per cent of their volume is wasted in the form of bark, slabs, sawdust, edgings and trimmings, and although some of this waste is utilized as fuel, in most cases the larger part of it is destroyed in burners or thrown away.

GRAIN MOVEMENTS REPORTED IN WESTERN CANADA FOR WEEK

*Nearly 40,000,000 Bushels
Less Loaded since September
than corresponding
period last year*

SHIPMENTS TO DATE

The following report on grain movements for the week ending February 15 has been received from the office of the Commissioner of Immigration and Colonization at Winnipeg:—

Loaded by C.P.R. since September 1, 1918, 66,394,965 bushels; 1917, 100,228,000 bushels.

In store at Government interior elevators: Moosejaw, 1,763,903 bushels; Saskatoon, 1,676,872 bushels; Calgary, 2,258,446 bushels.

In store at C.P. interior elevators, 12,230,701 bushels; 1917, 14,520,936 bushels.

In store all elevators at the lake front, 32,576,363 bushels.

Inspected since September 1, 1918:—

Wheat. Other grains. Total.

1918—100,456,800 27,294,900 127,751,700

1917—120,172,800 46,070,000 166,242,800

Daily average marketed and loaded:

1919 76,333 bushels 65 cars.

1918 227,666 " 152 "

Grain shipped by rail since September 1, 1918: C.P. tracks, 5,444,800 bushels; lake front, 6,681,793 bushels.

Cars of grain unloaded by C.P. at Fort William since September 1, 1918, 42,914; 1917, 60,421; 1916, 58,414.

During the week 180 cars of flour were shipped from various mills in the Prairie Provinces; last year, 755 cars.

The average number of bushels of various kinds of grain per car as shown by out-turns at elevators on C.P. tracks, Fort William, during the week were:—

	1919.	1918.
Wheat	1,308	1,251
Oats	1,929	1,933
Barley	1,229	1,394
Flax	1,606	1,379

TENDERS FOR MILITARY BLOCK AT KINGSTON

Sealed tenders addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tender for Educational Block, R.M.C., Kingston, Ont.," will be received until 12 o'clock noon, Wednesday, March 19, 1919, for the construction of Educational Block, R.M.C., Kingston, Ont.

Plans and specification can be seen and forms of tender obtained at the offices of the Chief Architect, Department of Public Works, Ottawa; the Overseer of Dominion Buildings, Central Post Office, Montreal; Superintendent, Dominion Buildings, Postal Station "F," Toronto; and of the Resident Architect, Kingston, Ont.

Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted cheque on a chartered bank payable to the order of the Minister of Public Works, equal to 10 per cent of the amount of the tender. War Loan Bonds of the Dominion will also be accepted as security, or war bonds and cheques if required to make up an odd amount.

Blue prints can be obtained at the office of the Chief Architect, Department of Public Works, by depositing an accepted bank cheque for the sum of \$50, payable to the order of the Minister of Public Works, which will be returned if the intending bidder submit a regular bid.

By order.

R. C. DESROCHERS,
Secretary.

Department of Public Works,
Ottawa, February 25, 1919.

For Repair of Pier.

Sealed tenders addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tender for Repairs to Breakwater Pier, Cape Bald, N.B.," will be received until 12 o'clock

noon, Tuesday, March 18, 1919, for the repairs to breakwater pier at Cape Bald, Westmoreland County, N.B.

Plans and form of contract can be seen and specification and forms of tender obtained at this Department, at the office of the District Engineer at Chatham, N.B., and at Post Office, Cape Bald, N.B.

Tenders will not be considered unless made on printed forms supplied by the Department and in accordance with conditions contained therein.

Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted cheque on a chartered bank payable to the order of the Minister of Public Works, equal to 10 per cent of the amount of the tender. War Loan Bonds of the Dominion will also be accepted as security, or war bonds and cheques if required to make up an odd amount.

NOTE.—Blue prints can be obtained at this Department by depositing an accepted bank cheque for the sum of \$10 payable to the Order of the Minister of Public Works, which will be returned if the intending bidder submits a regular bid.

R. C. DESROCHERS,
Secretary.

Department of Public Works,
Ottawa, February 21, 1919.

WHEAT PRODUCTION IN NORTHERN HEMISPHERE

Figures given in the last number of the "Monthly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics," issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, show that the total production of wheat in 1918 in the fifteen countries of the northern hemisphere—Spain, England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Italy, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, Canada, United States, British India, Japan, Egypt, and Tunis—was 1,981,937,000 bushels, as against 1,696,429,000 bushels in 1917, and 1,870,450,000 bushels, the annual average for five years.

SUPPLIED BIG PART OF CANADA WOOL CLIP

The Southern Alberta Wool Growers' Association shipped a total of 1,584,783 pounds of wool to Toronto during 1918 under the co-operative plan, and private members shipped about 100,000 pounds more. The sheep industry centring around Lethbridge supplied over 40 per cent of the Canadian clip in 1918 and about 15 per cent of annual Canadian consumption, according to figures supplied by the Winnipeg office of the Commissioner of Immigration and Colonization.

Shipping at Canadian Ports.

During the year ended March 31, 1917, 38,128 sea-going vessels of 29,267,074 tons register, and with crews numbering 927,953 men, arrived at and departed from Canadian seaports (not including coasting vessels). Of these ships, 7,387, of a total registered tonnage of 16,144,873 and carrying crews numbering 437,231, were British; 12,241, of 4,343,448 tons register and manned by 198,584 men, were Canadian; and 18,500, of 8,778,753 tons register and with crews numbering 292,143 men, were foreign, according to the shipping report of the Department of Customs for the fiscal year 1917.

TIN SHEET STOCKS.

A Canadian Trade Commission statement says:—

"There will henceforth be little difficulty in meeting all Canadian requirements for tin sheets from stocks in Great Britain, according to cabled information received from the British Ministry of Munitions by the Canadian Trade Commission. Open general licenses have now been issued for exportation of both tin sheets and tin plates to British destinations overseas. This will, therefore, immediately relieve the difficulty which has been growing throughout the war in several industries which use tin sheets and tin plates. The stringency had a marked effect on the tin-can output in the Dominion."