

EXPORT SURPLUS OF POTATOES WAS LARGE

A revised estimate of the Canadian potato crop from figures in possession of the Canada Food Board shows an exportable surplus in six provinces of 23,343,000 bushels over all requirements for domestic use and seeding. Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Ontario have no surplus.

Early frosts and prolonged drought reduced the yield below normal in these provinces. On the contrary, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Manitoba show a remarkable surplus of 24,500,000 bushels. The balance of 3,933,000 bushels is in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and British Columbia.

From the King of Italy.

The following cable has been sent to the Governor General of Canada, in response to one from the Dominion, from the King of Italy:—

"I thank the Government and the people of Canada for the cordial congratulations which they have sent to me on the occasion of the victorious ending of the war which has consecrated the cause of free peoples. I am happy to assure you that I form the most ardent wishes for the greatness and prosperity of Canada.

(Sgd.) "VITTORIA MANUEL."

Board Grants Increase.

The application of the British Columbia Electric Railway Company for permission to increase the commutation fares for the carrying of passengers between points on the Vancouver and Fraser Valley railway has been granted by the Board of Railway Commissioners as per the tariff filed with the board, and may become effective on ten days' notice from November 14, 1918.

CLAIMS AGAINST HUN FOR ILLEGAL WARFARE

Claimants in Canada must give Special Particulars when Addressing Secretary of State regarding Damage.

Canadians who have claims arising out of the enemy illegal acts of the war are asked to put them in as soon as possible.

The Government by the following Order in Council passed on November 15 has directed the preparation of the following further lists of claims arising out of the war:—

The Committee of the Privy Council have had before them a report, dated 14th November, 1918, from the Secretary of State, stating that during the period of the present war persons residing and carrying on business in Canada have been subjected to loss and pecuniary damage, and have claims arising from the destruction of life and property, through the illegal warfare of the enemy, and that, through the operation of the Consolidated Orders respecting Trading with the Enemy, persons residing and carrying on business in Canada have been subjected to claims for damages for breaches of contract, which contracts they were prevented from carrying out owing to the operation of the statutory list of persons in neutral countries with whom they were prohibited from trading, and that it is advisable that a list of all such claims should be prepared, for such action as may hereafter be considered advisable.

The Minister, therefore, recommends that Thomas Mulvey, Under-Secretary of State, be appointed an officer to take such steps as may be necessary to obtain a complete list of:—

(a) Claims of persons residing or carrying on business in Canada who have been subjected to loss and pecuniary damage, arising from the destruction of life and property through the illegal warfare of the enemy; and

(b) Claims for damages to which persons residing or carrying on business in Canada have been subjected

for breaches of contracts, which contracts were prevented from being carried out owing to the operation of the statutory list of persons in neutral countries with whom such contracts were declared illegal, and to examine and report upon all such claims as aforesaid.

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

RODOLPHE BOUDREAU,
Clerk of the Privy Council.

The instructions as to the filing of claims by British subjects in Canada in respect of property requisitioned, sequestered, or destroyed by enemy governments have been issued by the Under-Secretary of State as follows:—

1. A statutory declaration verifying the claim must be sent to the Under-Secretary of State, Ottawa. The declaration must be in the form prescribed by the Canada Evidence Act.

2. If the claimant was born within His Majesty's dominions the declaration should state the date and place of birth. If the claimant was born outside His Majesty's dominions, but derives British nationality from his father or grandfather, the declaration should state the date and place of birth of such father or grandfather.

If the claimant is a naturalized British subject, the declaration should state the date and place of his naturalization and his previous nationality.

3. If the claimant is a company incorporated under the laws of the Dominion of Canada or any province thereof, or of the United Kingdom, or some British dominion or colony, the declaration should state the date of incorporation and jurisdiction of incorporation.

If all the persons holding shares or otherwise interested in the company are aliens, the declaration should state the fact.

If some of the persons holding shares or otherwise interested in the company are aliens, the declaration should state the nationality of those persons and the nature of their interest in the company.

4. Full particulars of the property in respect whereof the claim is made must be set out in the declaration or in a schedule attached thereto.

5. The declaration must state the value of the property and the amount of the claim.

Where the value of the property can be proved by documentary evidence, copies of those documents should be attached to the declaration.

Where documentary evidence of the value of the property cannot be adduced, the evidence of the claimant should, as far as it is possible to do so, be corroborated by that of other persons.

6. The declaration must state the facts with regard to the requisitioning, sequestration, or destruction of the property so far as they are known to the claimant.

If the claimant holds any receipts or other documentary evidence of the seizure of his property, copies of such documents should be attached to the declaration.

7. The declaration must also state that, at the date when the property was requisitioned, sequestered, or destroyed, the claimant was the absolute owner thereof.

8. If the claimant, or any person on his behalf, has received any payment through insurance or otherwise, in respect of the property, particulars thereof must be set out in the declaration.

9. If a claim is made in respect of loss of life, the declaration should set out:—

(a) the relationship of the claimant to the deceased;

(b) the amount at which the will of the deceased was probated or administration granted;

(c) the amount of life and accident insurance paid on account of the death of the deceased, whether forming part of the estate or not;

(d) the average earnings of the deceased for the last three years, not including any sums derived from investments or receipts of that nature; and

(e) the dependents left by the deceased.

10. The fact that a claim is filed in the Department of the Secretary of State does not imply an undertaking on the part of the Canadian Government to put forward such claim on the termination of hostilities or any assurance that the claim, if put forward, will be paid.

11. If the claim has been registered with the Foreign Claims Department of the Foreign Office of the United Kingdom, the date of registration and the file number should be given.

SOLDIERS' CHARACTER CERTIFICATES DROPPED

Not necessary now when Man has been Discharged from Force.

The British War Office has decided that on general demobilization soldiers' discharge certificates will no longer include what is generally known as assessment of character, and the Canadian Government will conform to this practice. In other words, character certificates will not be issued to members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force on discharge. Under army regulations assessment of a soldier's character is based upon his conduct sheet, which contains the record of offences of a military nature. Many of those offences which are considered serious in the army would not be regarded so in civil life, and ought not to constitute a bar to civil employment. Under these circumstances it is felt that the issue of such character certificates might work a hardship upon many men seeking employment. Should the character be assessed lower than the highest class a soldier would be handicapped in competition with a civilian, as the latter would be able in many cases to produce a recommendation from a friend or well-wisher possibly out of proportion to his deserts. It is quite possible that a man with several years' service in the army might have been guilty of offences which would preclude the issue to him of a military certificate of exemplary character, whereas he might, and probably in many cases would, be eligible in every way for employment in a civil capacity.

The War Office, with its long experience in such matters, has given these considerations due weight and has reached the conclusion indicated above, and the Canadian Government, with the full concurrence of the Canadian overseas military authorities, considers it advisable on all grounds that the regulations applying to Canadian soldiers in this respect should conform to those of the British army as a whole.

Consumption of Butter.

Canadian consumption of butter could profitably be reduced by 25 per cent, says the Canada Food Board. If such measures were adopted it would release for export 56,000,000 pounds per year. Another technical advisor states that national consumption averages 28 pounds a head per year.

COMMENTS ON RESULTS OBTAINED FROM CARDS

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While there may be some men of that age in the army who have had 20 years of farming, it is very doubtful if there are so many as indicated by the answers, if casually interpreted. One officer observing a young man of about 25 years of age signing the card noted that the man stated he had 18 years of experience. "What 18 years were those, the first 18 years of your life?" inquired the officer, and the man stated that this was so.

EXPERIENCE AS BOYS.

An admission of a doubt such as this might at first hand cast a reflection on all answers showing 15 years' experience and over, but it is pointed out in this connection that a boy who has been raised on the farm for 18, 20 or 21 years undoubtedly acquires a great deal of experience and knowledge about farming conditions which are really valuable. It is most unlikely too, that any of those who stated that they had had from one to ten years of experience had reference to the earliest ten years of their life, although in the instance of a man who stated he had twenty years of experience one might be justified in striking off the first ten of those years as valueless.

From the time the farm boy is ten or twelve years of age, however, he is usually doing work about the farm and subconsciously, if not consciously, learning a great deal about the industry which would stand him in good stead if he were to return to it even after 10 years' absence.

The question in regard to working for wages is a long one and reads as follows: "And would you, if necessary, to gain experience work for prevailing wages on a farm after your return, provided your dependents were in the meanwhile given the same support as they now receive?" Over 13,000 gave indefinite answers to this question. The number who expressed willingness to work for wages was 49,000, and their sincerity in their desire to farm, it is claimed, must be accepted almost without reserve. That the 42,000 who stated that they would not work for wages under those conditions should be discounted as insincere does not follow, however, as a number much greater than that stated that they had three years' experience or more. The indefinite answer probably means in the vast majority of cases that they do not require to gain experience by working for wages. They already have it.

WEST IS PREFERRED.

It is curious to note that the average age of men wishing to settle in the western provinces is higher than the average age of men wishing to settle in the eastern provinces. The province having the highest average age is British Columbia where nearly all the older men wish to go, probably because of its attractive coast climate. A deduction in reference to the fact that the old men appear to wish to go west is that the extremely young boys have not reached the age where their vision extends much beyond their home surroundings. In this connection it is noted that only 28 per cent of the men wish to settle in any other than their home province.