

such acreage as on consultation with an administration board may be found suitable to the applicant's needs. All the terms of the Land Act, except the period of residence and the payments of fees, apply to the obtaining of a Crown grant five years after the record of pre-emption. The period of residence is to be subject to regulation by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. The lands in these pre-emptions will be **exempt from all but school taxes**, and a fee of \$10 is all that has to be paid to obtain the Crown grant. For five years from the date of pre-emption the lands are to be free from seizure for debt.

Other portions of this reclaimed land, which is expected to amount to over two million acres, are to be sold to the public to raise money for making **loans to the returned soldiers** to assist them in improving their pre-emptions.

#### **RETURNED SOLDIERS PREFERRED**

**Taken on Civil Service.**—Returned soldiers have been given preference in Provincial civil service appointments. Wherever it is possible to give a returned soldier employment in the public service this has been done. Already several scores of men who were at the front and incapacitated from military duty, have been given work in the Government Buildings at Victoria, Vancouver and elsewhere, and this principle has been definitely adopted by the Executive Council for the future, as far as possible.

#### **RETURNED SOLDIERS' AID COMMISSION**

**Appointed by Order-in-Council.**—In November, 1915, by order-in-council, the Provincial Government created a Returned Soldiers' Aid Commission, which began at once to care for the returning soldiers, and to study the conditions which will be created by the discharge of thousands of sailors and soldiers at the end of the war. It was on the recommendation of this Commission that the land legislation previously mentioned was enacted, while other important recommendations of the Commission are also being carried out.

Classes in commercial work, agriculture and various kinds of industrial work have already been opened at Esquimalt for returned sailors and soldiers, special attention being given by the instructors to **teaching partially disabled men how to make a living** despite the handicap occasioned by the loss of an arm, or leg or sight.