

## Ontario and her Prime Minister.

### SIR WILLIAM HEARST.

Sir William Hearst, Prime Minister of Ontario, was born on February 15th, 1864, in Bruce County, Ontario. Growing up on the farm, the present Prime Minister of Ontario went from the public school to the Collingwood Collegiate Institute, and afterwards to the Law School at Toronto, to qualify for the legal profession as his vocation. He was called to the Bar in 1888, was appointed King's Counsel in 1908, and was elected a Bench of the Law Society of Upper Canada in 1912. Sir William began the practice of law in Sault Ste. Marie in 1888, when it was a town of less than 2,000 people on the edge of the forest-clad wilderness of Northern Ontario. In a few years he became head of one of the principal law firms of the city, and associated himself closely with all movements connected with its progress and development.

In 1908 he was elected by Sault Ste. Marie to the Provincial Legislature.

Three years later he was invited by Sir James Whitney to enter his Cabinet as Minister for Lands, Forests and Mines. On the death of Sir James he was asked to form a Government, and he became Prime Minister on the 2nd of October, 1914.

From the outset of his administration Sir William Hearst was called upon to meet war conditions. To provide a war fund, out of which over \$8,000,000 has been spent on the Ontario Military Hospital, Orpington, the Maple Leaf Clubs, and numerous war grants, a tax of a million the dollar on all assessed property was levied. A moratorium law was enacted. Soldiers who had mining claims and were unable to carry on development were relieved from forfeiture. A Department of Public Highways was established. The local control of the liquor traffic was abolished and a Provincial Board substituted. Subsequently provincial prohibition was enacted as a war measure subject to a popular vote after the war. The Workmen's Compensation law was enlarged, and a new branch added whereby medical and surgical attendance is given free to the injured. A Commission to aid soldiers in returning to civil life was created. A Department of Trades and Labour was authorized and put into operation. The public development of water power at Niagara Falls was undertaken, and all water powers in the Province were brought under regulation. Provision was made for the agricultural settlement of soldiers on the land, and territory was set apart for that purpose. The Ontario Power Company's plant at Niagara Falls was purchased and added to the Hydro-Electric Commission's equipment. The Seymour Power Company's plant was purchased to give a supply of power to Eastern Ontario. Women were given the right to vote at Provincial and Municipal elections.

In order to speed up the work of reconstruction and assist materially in the task of the re-establishment of the returned soldiers, Sir William Hearst has just announced that his Government will this year initiate a vigorous housing and new public works programme, which will involve an expenditure of \$25,000,000.

The honour of Knighthood was conferred upon Sir William Hearst in 1917. His two sons are on active service, Lieut. Howard Vernon Hearst, and Lieut. William Irving Hearst.

### SOLDIERS' LAND SETTLEMENT.

Brig.-General R. Manley Sims, C.M.G., D.S.O., the Agent-General for Ontario in London, has received advices that soldiers land settlement in Ontario is being carried out with encouraging success. The operations of the Soldiers' Settlement Board in Ontario was begun only two months ago, and already hundreds of applications by returned soldiers have been dealt with.

In April 462 returned soldiers applied for land, and of these 230 were approved. Eighty-six applicants required further agricultural experience, and were advised how this experience could best be gained. Of the remaining 110 applications most of them were withdrawn, owing to the soldiers concerned finding other opportunities which they preferred.

During April alone the Soldiers' Settlement Board of Ontario approved of eighty purchases of farms to be delivered to returned soldier settlers. The advance of money by the Government to complete these purchases is £52,443. These soldier farmers also made application for advances for stock and equipment. The advances of that kind approved of in April totalled £13,600. The applications for advances to make improvements in buildings were also granted.

Loans are granted in Ontario to returned soldier settlers who are qualified for farming on the following bases: (1) Up to £900 on the purchase of land; (2) up to £400 on the purchase of live stock, implements, and other equipment; (3) up to £200 on the erection of buildings and other permanent improvements. The first and third are repayable in twenty-four equal annual instalments; the second in four equal annual instalments beginning the third year, no interest being charged for the first two years. Only five per cent. interest is charged.

### SQUARE DEAL FOR WORKERS.

The Ontario Government has passed legislation for the purpose of increasing the allowances granted under the Ontario Workmen's Compensation Act to meet the increased cost of living. The new scale will increase the monthly payment to widows from £4 to £6, and the children's allowance from £1 to £1/10. The Workmen's Compensation Act in Ontario, which has been in operation four years, has been of great value to working men and their dependents. Last year over £700,000 was paid in compensation to injured workers under the provisions of this Act.

### FAST TIMBER RESOURCES.

Of great interest in view of the demand for building timber is the statement by Brig.-Gen. R. Manley Sims, C.M.G., D.S.O., the Agent-General for Ontario in London, that the forests of Ontario cover 125,000 square miles, and that the harvest of forest products in that Province is over £8,000,000 annually.

There are in Ontario eighty large sawmills sawing into lumber and dimension timber pine and hardwood. In addition Ontario's wood-working industries, which include 600 factories, lead the Dominion of Canada in their production of material for building.

Ontario is prepared to-day to supply ready-cut houses, frames, doors, interior finish, and all other classes of wood products in large quantities for export.

Within the Province also, there are eleven large pulp and paper mills.

### MY MATE.

By ROBERT SERVICE.

I've been sittin' starin' at his muddy pair of boots.  
And tryin' to convince meself it's 'im.  
(Look out there, lad! That sniper,—'e's a dysey when he shoots;  
'E'll be layin' of you out the same as Jim.)  
Jim as lies there in the dug-out with 'is blanket round 'is 'ead,  
To keep 'is brains from mixin' wiv the mud;  
And 'is face as white as putty, and 'is overcoat all red,  
Like 'e's spilt a bloomin' paint-pot,—but it's blood.  
And I'm tryin' to remember of a time we wasn't pals.  
'Ow often we've played 'ookey, 'im and me;  
And sometimes it was music-'alls, and sometimes it was gals,  
And even there we 'ad no disagree.  
For when 'e copped Mariar Jones, the one I liked the best,  
I shook 'is 'and and loaned 'im 'arf a quid;  
I saw 'im through the parson's job, I 'elped him make 'is nest,  
I even stood god-father to the kid.  
So when the war broke out, sez 'e: "Well, wot abaht it, Joe?"  
"Well, wot abaht it lad?" sez I to 'im.  
'Is missis made a awful fuss, but 'e was mad to go,  
( 'E always was 'igh-sperrited was Jim.)  
Well, none of it's been 'eaven, and the most of it's been 'ell,  
But we've shared our baccy, and we've 'alved our bread.  
We'd all the luck at Wipers, and we shaved through Noove Chapelle,  
And . . . that snipin' barstard gits 'im on the 'ead.  
Now wot I wants to know is—why it wasn't me was took?  
I've only got meself, 'e stands for three.  
I'm plainer than a louse, while 'e was handsome as a dook;  
'E always *was* a better man than me.  
'E was goin' 'ome next Toosday; he was 'appy as a lark,  
And 'e'd just received a letter from his kid;  
And 'e struck a match to show me, as we stood there in the dark,  
When . . . that bleedin' bullet got 'im on the lid.  
There's some as fights for freedom and there's some as fights for fun,  
But me, my lad, I fights for bleedin' 'ate.  
You can blame the war and blast it, but I 'opes it won't be done  
Till I gets the bloomin' blood-price for me mate.  
It'll take a bit o' bayonet to level up for Jim;  
Then if I'm spared I think I'll 'ave a bid,  
Wiv 'er that was Mariar Jones to take the place of 'im,  
To sorter be a farther to 'is kid.  
—From "Rhymes of a Red Cross Man."

### THE SABBATH FORD.

We watch the little cars go by,  
Each one replete with family—  
Proud chauffeur Pa and anxious Ma  
And tonneau filled with progeny.  
My husband, who's a dominie,  
Recalls the ancient apothegm,  
And says, "Yes, happy is the man  
Who hath his flivver full of them!"