

in what category he should be classified to guide the operations of the supervisor in the subsequent supervision of his work. We have established accordingly qualification boards—some of which have been in operation for three or four months, and others for a lesser period, at the following points: At Victoria, and Vancouver in British Columbia; Calgary and Edmonton in Alberta; Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert in Saskatchewan; Winnipeg in Manitoba; Toronto in Ontario; Montreal, Sherbrooke, and the city of Quebec in Quebec; and one in each of the provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. Besides these, however, and for their assistance, there is a sub-office for determining the qualifications of soldiers at Nelson in British Columbia; in the Peace River district in the province of Alberta; and in the province of Ontario we just have one qualification board. We are enabled to confine ourselves to that number in Ontario by reason of the Provincial Department of Agriculture having representatives in many counties in Ontario which representatives act as sub-officers for the qualification board at Toronto; and every man in that province who desires to apply to be admitted under the provisions of that Act goes first to the local provincial agricultural representative. His experience and his general make-up and prospects are noted there and, unless it is a case of doubt, he is there passed upon, is admitted, and then goes down to the central qualification board at Toronto and they determine the question.

Mr. PETER McGIBBON: Is there any age limit for applicants?

Mr. MEIGHEN: There is no fixed age limit, but the man's age is, of course, considered, along with other questions, in determining his qualifications.

Mr. BUREAU: Am I right in understanding the minister to say there is an officer to whom application is first made and that he decides whether or not the man shall be referred to some other tribunal?

Mr. MEIGHEN: That is in Ontario. We utilize the provincial agricultural representatives in the various counties, and in that way we are able to get along in Ontario with only one qualification board. In the province of Quebec there are three qualification boards—one each at Montreal, Sherbrooke, and the city of Quebec.

Mr. MORPHY: Is there any provision made for a county in the province of On-

tario which has no agricultural representative?

Mr. MEIGHEN: Not that I know of. The applicant in that case would have to go to the nearest agricultural representative. In this connection let me say that we have arranged transportation with all the railroads whereby any soldier who desires to be tested for his qualifications to be admitted under the Act will be given a rate of one cent per mile going and coming, and as well a rate in these ways for every soldier who goes to settle upon the land; he gets a one-cent rate going to select his land and a one-cent rate returning; he gets another cent rate returning for his family, and another one-cent rate in actually going to reside permanently upon the land.

Mr. MAHARG: Does that reduced rate apply to the members of his family?

Mr. MEIGHEN: I think it does, but if the hon. member will repeat the question later in the day, I will give him a more definite answer.

Our advisory councils are sitting at each point where the qualification boards are sitting. The advisory councils are composed of what we believe to be expert and fair-minded men, whose experience and qualifications enable them to determine the value of land and the amount of loan that should be made thereon. I might say in this connection that we do not follow particularly the loan company's rules in determining the maximum that can be loaned upon land. We follow a much more liberal scale, because in our operations we select our men, we believe, more carefully than they are selected if there is no organization for the purpose. Because of that the soldier who goes upon the land under the terms of the Act has a much better chance to succeed (for reasons that I will dilate upon fully at a later period) than has the ordinary settler, and for the reason as well that we have now installed, and purpose continuing, a system of supervision and assistance whereby his chances of success will be very much improved. That, however, is the function performed by our advisory council. Then we have in each district a superintendent, and in the larger districts where a greater amount of work is done an assistant superintendent, and then such clerks as may be necessary for the proper conduct of the work. We have had to expand our organization with marked rapidity, with much greater rapidity than we ever imagined, because