

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYMENT

THAT the Dominion government is alive to the necessity for providing employment opportunities, and stands prepared to assist in every way possible, is the assurance given by H. J. Daly, Director of Repatriation, Ottawa.

"If corporations and private citizens will join in this feature of repatriation work," says Mr. Daly, "Canada should have little difficulty with the unemployment problem. Besides helping to distribute employment through a chain of employment offices, the government has developed plans to create opportunities for employment. Briefly, these plans cover the following phases:—

Public Works

"During the war, many important public works have been held up. The Minister of Public Works has his plans and preparations made to proceed with the more necessary of these in the near future. The Repatriation Committee has also been in touch with provincial governments and municipalities, with a view to impressing upon them the necessity for similar action. The building and public works program now in sight will provide employment for many returned soldiers and war-workers.

Railways

"During the past four years, a great deal of work necessary to keep our railways up to standard has been postponed. Some millions of dollars must be expended on improving road-bed, constructing bridges, buildings and other improvements. Vast quantities of ties are being got out this winter. Equipment of various kinds must be secured. The Minister of Railways states that as soon as weather conditions will permit, some thousands of men will be absorbed in various railway undertakings. The supplies and materials required will also provide employment.

Shipbuilding

"The shipbuilding program arranged for by the government will provide employment for many men during 1919. It is expected that arrangements will be completed to keep the shipbuilding yards in active operation throughout the year. The government recognizes that this ship construction is one of the best means of providing suitable employment for many skilled and other workers.

Export Trade

"The government has established a Canadian Trade Commission. This commission has an office in Canada and a 'trade mission' overseas. Through this trade mission it is anticipated that Canada will secure an important share in the business of providing materials and manufactured products required for reconstruction work in Europe. A short time may be required before final details are completed and definite results are announced. The business so secured will be distributed through the regular channels of trade and thus afford extra opportunities for employment.

Housing

"The government has set aside the large sum of \$25,000,000 to be loaned through the provinces in order to encourage the building of workmen's houses. When the season for building arrives, this work should give employment to many hundreds of men both in construction work and in the supply of materials.

Land Settlement and Highways

"The government, as already explained in a former announcement, has developed plans to help soldiers to become farmers, providing land, granting loans and giving training and supervision where necessary. It is expected that a large number of returning soldiers will take advantage of these opportunities. The scheme will involve the expenditure of some millions of dollars, a good deal of which will find its way into building materials, supplies, machinery, etc., all of which will assist in providing employment.

"The government now has under consideration the question of joining the provincial governments in financing the

construction of public highways. Should a favorable decision be reached, a large field for employment opportunities will be opened up. Regardless of federal action, provincial governments are preparing their own road-making programs."

[NOTE.—Since the above was written, the government has decided favorably in regard to extending federal aid for highways construction, and will probably vote \$25,000,000 for that purpose, to which the provinces will likely have to add \$37,500,000.—EDITOR.]

DEVELOPMENT OF WATER POWERS

UNDER the above title, the "Toronto Globe," in its issue for February 6th, prints the following editorial:—

"One lesson from the war is that Canada should develop at once all water powers that may be used profitably. The demands for munition-making showed how small is the margin of available power of all kinds over everyday requirements. The shortage of coal will certainly increase from year to year, making it necessary to utilize more and more the other source of power so lavishly placed at our disposal by nature.

"The Globe has frequently called attention to the necessity of utilizing the millions of horsepower running to waste along the St. Lawrence. It can be accomplished only by redesigning our system of canals, and this very question is now involved in the movement by the States and cities of the United States bordering on the Great Lakes to make their ports available for ocean-going ships.

"A deputation has gone to Washington to ask that the matter be referred to the Joint International Commission on Waterways, and unfortunately Ontario, the province chiefly interested, is not represented on the Canadian section of that Commission.

"In order to permit ocean-going vessels to reach the Great Lakes it will be necessary to enlarge and improve the St. Lawrence canals, and this will be the opportunity to put into operation a comprehensive plan to utilize every foot of water available for power purposes.

"The United States Senate has suddenly awakened up to the fact that a bill for the development of water powers on a large scale was passed eight years ago, but was held up for a conference between the two Houses and has been forgotten. The conference, however, will meet this week, and it is expected that an agreement will be reached and that the bill will become law.

"It is now eight years since a single permit has been granted for water power development on any navigable stream in the United States, which is equivalent to saying that in spacious sections of the country where coal is scarce or non-existent industrial development has been checked for that period. But the wakening of the Senate will undoubtedly lead to great developments.

"According to Senator Jones, the enactment of legislation on this subject will put 100,000 men at work in construction, will add tremendously to the industrial power of the country, will incidentally result in the irrigation of immense tracts of arid land, and within one year after the passage of the Act projects involving the investment of \$350,000,000 by private capital and designed to develop 2,000,000 hydro-electric horsepower will be under way. The plants using this power will give employment to 500,000 persons."

"The demand for power and the situation created by the aspirations of the lake cities to become seaports should stimulate our own government to prepare plans for the development of our St. Lawrence water powers."

Canada has storage capacity for approximately 180,000,000 bushels of grain, according to an official statement issued by A. E. Boyle, secretary of the Winnipeg board of trade. The grain storage capacity in the Dominion has been increased by 1,500 per cent. in the past 20 years. The storage capacity last year was increased by 13,000,000 bushels. In 1917 the total storage was 163,144,000.