

CARDS TO GIVE INFORMATION AS TO UNEMPLOYMENT

*Department of Labour's
Scheme to Obtain Accurate
Figures from all parts of
Dominion*

SIX QUESTIONS ASKED

In a statement issued by the Employment Service and Research Branch of the Dominion Department of Labour is pointed out the importance of accurate and up-to-date information as a factor in the control of unemployment.

The transition period now entered is beset with obvious dangers. If nothing is done to ascertain the facts and meet the situation as it develops, unemployment will result and spread with increasing momentum. The Dominion and the provinces are co-operating to establish a nation-wide system of employment offices. For the first time Canada is to have adequate facilities for bringing "jobless men" and "menless jobs" together. But this new organization cannot render efficient service unless it is constantly in touch with labour conditions throughout the country.

In the past Canada has been lamentably wanting in information as to the extent of unemployment. Statistics, it is true, have been secured from trade unions since 1914. But these only show the men out of work in the unionized trades and, moreover, they are issued only at the end of each quarter. For historical and general statistical purposes, they are very interesting. But if the aim is to solve present practical problems, they are as obsolete as last summer's weather reports.

POSTCARD CENSUS.

To provide the "live" statistics which are needed in the present emergency, the Employment Service is now receiving weekly returns from Canadian employers of labour. A questionnaire has been prepared in the form of a postcard which has simply to be filled in and dropped in the mails every Saturday. In a short time the department will be receiving these returns from every business man employing more than 10 persons.

Six questions only are asked, namely, the amount of pay-roll for the current week, the number of persons on the pay-roll on the last day of the week, the anticipated number for the following week, the anticipated additions or reductions next week by occupations, and the employer's willingness to use the Dominion-Provincial Employment Service in securing the needed additions. The requirements for information have thus been boiled down to the smallest possible compass. In other ways the greatest care has been taken to cause employers as little inconvenience as possible. All Dominion departments concerned in the matter of employment have agreed that only this questionnaire

PENSIONS ARE WAITING FOR SOLDIERS NAMED BELOW

List Published by Board of Men Whose Addresses are Wanted by the Board of Pension Commissioners at Ottawa.

The Board of Pension Commissioners, Ottawa, issues the following list of pensioners whose present addresses are unknown to them. The number with each name should be quoted in any correspondence to the Board dealing with the matter:—

Pte. N. Latham, 55th Battalion (11358).
Pte. Hubert Percy, 43rd Battalion (14321).
Pte. David Jones, No. 12 District Depot (52754).
Sgt. Walter Mackay, 209th Battalion (51168).
Sgt. Paul McNeil, 6th Battalion (52833).
Pte. George Wright, 74th Battalion (14347).
Pte. Angus McDonald, 194th Battalion (55655).
Cpl. S. Hart, 101st Battalion (56149).
Pte. Guy Davidson, 2nd Battalion (43102).
Pte. T. Callaghan, 154th Battalion (38774).
Pte. Melvin Smith, No. 3 A.M.C.T. Depot (56695).
Cpl. Thomas Allan, 137th Battalion (54463).
Pte. Edward Howell, 89th Battalion (56162).
Pte. J. Astegegus, 227th Battalion (56519).

Cpl. P. C. Neal, 2nd C.O.R. (56020).
Spr. Thomas Connors, 257th Battalion (58799).
Pte. Albert Wilkinson, No. 4 District Depot (59901).
Pte. Joseph Dumont, No. 2 District Depot (54297).
Pte. Thomas Wright, 144th Battalion (50578).
Pte. William Daymond, Canadian Forestry Corps (52627).
Pte. Alexander Walker, No. 10 District Depot (48469).
Pte. Harvey Ferguson, 194th Battalion (21609).
Pte. Gilbert Barber, 1st C.M.R. (11098).
Pte. Charles Long, 137th Battalion (36782).
Lieut. John Sturrock, 142nd Battalion (53635).
Pte. Alexander Grossart, "A" Unit, M.H.C.C. (31365).
Pte. George Jewell, Canadian Railway Troops (40111).
Pte. James O'Dowds, 34th Battalion (59238).
Pte. Michael Palovich, 43rd Battalion (38470).
Pte. Arsen Saroian, 15th Battalion (46949).
Cpl. Clarence Duncan, 40th Battalion (8223).
Sgt. George Richardson, 49th Battalion (50244).
Pte. R. Reese, 51st Battalion (50274).
Pte. Frederick Miles, C.A.S.C. (56627).

shall be issued on the subject. The return to the Canada Registration Board will be discontinued and reports will be so published that no individual return can be identified.

PENALTY FOR FALSE FIGURES.

The Order-in-Council imposes a maximum penalty of \$100, for false returns or failure to send in the cards. But so well have the employers' interest been safeguarded and so important is the national object desired, that the Canadian Manufacturers' Association has promised its hearty co-operation in "the good work". The Employment Service feels that it can justly urge all employers of labour to return promptly and regularly all the information required.

When the cards are received in Ottawa they are classified by provinces and by industrial groups. The information thus compiled gives a bird's eye view of the whole employment situation. The seriousness of the existing unemployment problem can at once be gauged, changes from week to week can be studied and the weak spots identified. More important still, an accurate forecast of unemployment in the immediate future is provided. Before the end of each week the Department of Labour will have a first-class estimate of the extent and character of unemployment for that very week—not for a period one month or three months previous. It will know the particular industries and the particular parts of the country in which men are to be laid off or taken on. Where reductions are anticipated, steps can be taken to prevent unemployment. Where additions are forecasted, the machinery of the Dominion-Provincial Employment Service

can at once be called into play.

ASSISTS PUBLIC WORKS.

Both Dominion and Provincial Governments have recently stated their intention of embarking upon more or less elaborate programmes of public works, partly at least to relieve or prevent unemployment. A policy of this nature could not be wisely executed without some such system as described above for indicating just where and when such Government employment should be thrown in to supplement the normal course of industry.

So important, therefore, are the ends which these weekly returns will serve that the Department of Labour urges the hearty co-operation of every employer of labour. The card should be filled in by all employers so that the returns may be representative; they should be returned promptly so that the information may be up-to-date and useful for practical purposes.

War Savings Stamps are better than money; they increase at the rate of 4½% compounded.

POPULATION OF THE DOMINION PER SQ. M.

The population of the Dominion per square mile is 1.1 in British Columbia; 1.5 in Alberta; 1.9 in Saskatchewan; 1.8 in Manitoba; 6.1 in Ontario; 2.8 in Quebec; 12.5 in New Brunswick; 22.9 in Nova Scotia; and 42.9 in Prince Edward Island, according to figures given in a publication of the Canada Food Board.

CONSUL EXPLAINS WHAT BELGIUM ASKS FOR

Condensed Report of Minister's Speech Clears up Problem

From cabled official information just to hand the Consul-General of Belgium in Canada understands that the statement of Monsieur Hymans, Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs, recently delivered before the representatives of the Allied and Associated Powers may be summarized as follows, according to the Belgian delegation to the Peace Conference:

"The Minister of Foreign Affairs explained the necessity of revising the treaties of the 1st of April, 1839, which framed the international status of Belgium. The basis of the 1839 agreement was the permanent and guaranteed neutrality. In violating the Belgian neutrality two of the state signatories of the treaties of 1839, Prussia and Austria, destroyed the efficiency of the conventional system upon which the security of the kingdom was resting. Guaranteed neutrality, moreover, could not be understood but under certain conditions of European balance of powers which were disrupted by the war. Hence the necessity to procure for Belgium new guarantees of independence and prosperity. The Minister of Foreign Affairs subsequently explained the inconvenience of the present regime of the Scheldt and the Ghent-Terneuzen canal as also the question of direct communications by water between Antwerp and the Meuse and eventually between Antwerp and the Rhine via Maestricht and the province of Limburg. He gave expression to the aspiration of the Belgian nation towards a rapprochement between Belgium and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the form of which rapprochement should be freely agreed upon by both parties. He finally justified the reattachment to Belgium of the territories which were taken away from the old Belgian provinces in 1815 with the sole object to add to Prussia, among other places the Malmédy Canton. The whole Belgian problem has been laid before the Powers. It has been explained both from the political and economical points of view, as also from the point of view of national defence. Its solution will necessitate negotiations in which the Great Powers and also the Netherlands, as signatories of the 1839 treaties, will participate. The Minister of Foreign Affairs expressed the confidence that these negotiations, conducted in a friendly spirit, would create solutions resulting in good understanding between Belgium and all the Powers interested. The aspirations of Belgium are reasonable and moderate; they exclusively want to make sure the future and the security of the country."

Erroneous and incomplete accounts having been published by the press at large on the subject of the Belgian representations before the Peace Conference, the publication of the above may help dissipate any misunderstanding, concludes the Belgian Consul.

Wood in Construction.

Bulletin No. 59, issued by the Forestry Branch, Department of the Interior, shows by means of a table the comparative values of Canadian woods in constructional work. The estimate is based on cross-bending strength, available resources and actual lumber production. In structural strength Douglas fir heads the list, followed by Western hemlock, Western larch, Western yellow pine, tamarack, white pine, white and red spruce, Eastern hemlock, Western red cedar and Engelmann spruce. In available resources Douglas fir leads, followed by Eastern white pine, white spruce, other spruces, Western hemlock, Eastern hemlock, Western yellow pine, Western larch, red pine, Western red cedar, Western white pine, and tamarack.

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