

### INVESTIGATE B. C. LANDS FOR SOLDIER SETTLEMENT

On the recommendation of the Minister of the Interior, Ottawa, a committee of three members of the Soldiers' Settlement Board has been appointed by an Order in Council passed on February 20 to visit various areas in British Columbia and inquire into general farming conditions and gather data as to the suitable size for farms with a view to the probability of the Soldiers' Settlement Board being able to secure land for their purposes. The Order in Council is as follows:

The Committee of the Privy Council have had before them a report, dated 17th February, 1919, from the Minister of the Interior, representing that the Soldier Settlement Board of Canada proposes to organize, by selection from among its employees, a committee of three persons, of which committee B. E. Paterson, Esquire, will be chairman, and the duties of which committee shall be as follows:

(1) To visit the various areas or districts of the Province of British Columbia in which it is anticipated that the settlement of soldiers under the Soldier Settlement Act will be carried out.

(2) To ascertain by inquiry, and by such investigation or examination as may be necessary, the extent to which those engaged in farming in any of its branches in the said areas or districts are making a profit; the committee's duties to include the consideration of such matters as the size of individual farms for the different types of farming, the length of the period from the time of settlement until profitable production becomes possible, availability of water supply, either by rainfall or irrigation methods, the capital investment in equipment necessary to carry on the different classes of farming, market conditions affecting all classes of farm produce, and such other matters affecting the possibility of profitable farming and the enjoyment of social conditions as relate to contentment of rural residents.

(3) When the possibility of profitable farming and successful settlement under the various conditions heretofore enumerated has been determined, to ascertain in at least a general way the probability of the Soldier Settlement Board being able to secure land of good quality and at a reasonable price for soldier settlement in the various areas, giving such recommendations in respect to the various matters affecting settlement as may seem practicable and advisable.

The Minister, therefore, recommends that the said B. E. Paterson be appointed a commissioner pursuant to Section

3 of the Inquiries Act, Chapter 104 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1906, to inquire into all or any of such recited matters, with all the powers exercisable by commissioners appointed under that Act, and to report such proceedings with recommendations to committee in charge.

### JANUARY CHARTERED BANK STATEMENT

Savings deposits of Canadian Banks continue to increase. In September, 1918, before the last war loan was placed on the market, savings deposits reached the high water level of \$1,039,500,000. Payment of war loan subscriptions brought the total down, but it now again is climbing toward the billion dollar mark.

During January there was an increase in savings deposits of thirty-one and one-half million dollars, bringing the total at the end of the month to \$990,000,000. During the whole period from August, 1914, to January, 1919—in spite of heavy investments in domestic war issues—savings deposits increased about 50 per cent.

Bank returns for January also shows a decrease in demand deposits. A decrease in deposits outside of Canada and a decrease in call loans, both in and outside Canada. The principal figures for the month are:

	January, 1919	January, 1918
Res. fund .....	\$ 116,129,125	\$ 114,161,223
Note circulation .....	203,424,472	171,674,464
Demand deposits .....	623,919,410	559,777,237
Notice deposits .....	990,000,085	900,314,256
Deposits outside Canada....	203,015,797	169,581,106
Dominion notes .....	196,323,477	184,949,958
Dept. C. G. R. ....	105,615,000	75,570,000
Call loans outside Canada..	140,819,656	132,687,066
Current Ins. outside Canada	126,513,338	116,220,343
Current coin .....	80,563,677	82,443,676
Call loans in Canada.....	87,598,427	76,259,201
Current Ins. in Canada.....	1,080,340,861	855,506,506
Total liabilities .....	\$ 2,356,774,539	\$ 1,993,179,380
Total assets .....	\$ 2,603,275,584	\$ 2,237,867,266

### DOMINION REVENUE FOR FEBRUARY

A despatch from Ottawa says: Heavy revenues continue to roll into the Finance Department. For the eleven months concluding with the end of February, current revenues totalled \$272,756,984, an increase over the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year of \$42,990,356. With another month's receipts to come, the budget estimate of \$270,000,000 has already been exceeded. Revenue for February 1919, totalled \$23,684,326, an increase of \$2,458,453 over February, 1918.

Total expenditure, less war, for the eleven months was: ordinary, \$180,043,856; capital expenditure (less war), \$14,052,358; total, \$194,096,214.

There is, therefore, a surplus of current revenue over ordinary and capital revenue (less war) of \$78,663,769.

Current revenue, \$272,756,984.

Total expenditure (less war), \$194,096,214.

Surplus, \$78,663,769.

War expenditure for the eleven months was \$276,296,239. In February alone it was \$31,482,703, as compared with \$19,494,711 in February, 1918, the apparent increase being due to the passing of overseas accounts for previous expenditures. Despite prohibition, customs and excise revenues are keeping up well. Last month customs realized \$10,520,000, as compared with \$7,852,683 in February, 1918; excise, \$2,359,235, as compared with \$2,048,698.

The Dominion's net debt now totals \$1,389,759,300, an increase during the month of \$27,184,740.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce have opened a branch at Vanderhoof, British Columbia, on March 1st.

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