

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR HAS LARGE RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon It Devolves the Settlement of Returned Soldiers Upon the Land in the Work of Reconstruction After the War—It Involves Several Branches of Important Work.

In the whole work of reconstruction after the war, the responsibility especially following upon the Department of the Interior is the settlement of returned soldiers upon the land. This responsibility involves: (1) The agricultural training, where necessary of returned men. (2) The passing upon the qualifications of applicants. (3) The providing of land. (4) Assistance in financing. (5) Subsequent supervision. In 1917 parliament passed what is known as the "Soldier Settlement Act." This Act has been in operation for some months and while, in view of the rapidly expanding necessities of returned men, very important extensions of the Government's policy have now been decided upon, it is desirable that a brief summary be given of the provisions and scope of the present Act and of its administration. It will be of value, not only in arriving at an understanding of what is done to the returned soldier under the Act, but also in order that a clear view may be obtained of the effect of the proposals for the extensions of the entire Soldier Settlement Policy now proposed.

The Soldier Settlement Act.

Who may apply: Under the provisions of the Soldier Settlement Act of the Dominion of Canada, persons entitled to benefit as "settlers" are those who have served with the Expeditionary Forces and who have left with an honorable record or who have been honorably discharged, namely (a) any such person who has served in the naval or military expeditionary forces of Canada during the present war; (b) any such person who has been engaged in active service during the present war in the naval or military forces of the United Kingdom or of any of the self-governing British Dominions or Colonies; (c) any such person, who being British subject, resident in Canada before the war, has been engaged in active service at one of the seats of war in either the naval or military forces of any of His Majesty's Allies in the present war; (d) the widow of any person described above who died on active service. Loans to Settlers: Loans may be made to the returned soldier upon the land in the following circumstances: (1) when the land is in the possession of the Government; (2) when the land is in the possession of a private owner who is willing to sell to the returned soldier; (3) when the land is in the possession of a private owner who is willing to lease to the returned soldier; (4) when the land is in the possession of a private owner who is willing to mortgage to the returned soldier.

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WELL, DID YOU SEE WHAT IT SAYS IN THE PAPER?

land, Honorary Loan Advisory Boards were established. These Honorary Boards were composed of men fitted by long experience for the responsibility they undertook, and these men have given freely to their services to the general advantage of all concerned. Later, offices were opened at Montreal, Toronto and Victoria, with similar Loan Advisory Boards, and arrangements made with the Minister of Agriculture, Prince Edward Island, the Secretary of the Farm Loan Board for the Province of New Brunswick, and the Secretary of the Nova Scotia Returned Soldiers' Commission for the administration of the Act in those provinces. The following is a loan statement for the total amount: Number of applicants... 1,400 Number approved... 975 Amount... \$1,239,685 Average loan... 1,271 Number pending... 162

Further Proposals as to Soldier Settlement: It is to be noted that the provisions of the above Act look chiefly to the settlement of returned soldiers upon Dominion Crown Lands and to assisting them in financing farming operations and as well to the rendering of financial assistance to men who owned or have procured farms of their own and are able to give first mortgage security for any financial assistance rendered.

It was early found that the amount of Dominion Crown lands suitable and available for the purpose of soldier settlement was insufficient to satisfy the requirements that could reasonably be expected and that, while additional land could be made available, chiefly in more remote parts by very considerable public expenditure, the entire problem could not be adequately taken care of until means were found to acquire privately owned lands.

The desirability of acquiring lands privately owned arose not only from the fact that available Crown Lands were too limited, but also from the circumstance that Dominion Crown Lands were to be found only in four provinces of the Dominion, whereas it was manifestly only fair and right that federal activities in soldier settlement should be carried on adequately and vigorously in all the provinces.

It is, therefore, proposed that the approach of the Dominion Parliament legislation be made giving to the Soldier Settlement Board power for the acquisition of private lands for the purpose of soldier settlement. The Minister of the Interior has also urged upon representatives of the Provincial Governments that in any cases where land is acquired by such Governments for general settlement purposes, a preference should be given in the disposition of such land to the returned soldier.

Operation of Act: Up to the 1st November, 1918, loans to nine hundred and seventy-five returned soldiers aggregating \$1,239,685.00 had been approved. One hundred and sixty-two applications for loans were under consideration at that date. Six hundred and seventy-five soldier entries had been made on Dominion lands in the Prairie provinces under the provisions of the Act.

Representations having been made by the Great War Veterans and other bodies that there were in Western Canada this spring a large number of returned soldier farmers who needed rehabilitation to enable them to successfully farm lands occupied by them before enlistment caused the Board to decide that two of its members should go West in April to take care of this problem.

In order to carry on this work of field visits were opened first at Winnipeg, Regina and Edmonton. These officers were placed in charge of supervisors, under the Soldier Settlement Board. To ensure that the assistance given to soldiers would be administered along sound lines and that men would not be encouraged to settle on unsuitable

land, Honorary Loan Advisory Boards were established. These Honorary Boards were composed of men fitted by long experience for the responsibility they undertook, and these men have given freely to their services to the general advantage of all concerned. Later, offices were opened at Montreal, Toronto and Victoria, with similar Loan Advisory Boards, and arrangements made with the Minister of Agriculture, Prince Edward Island, the Secretary of the Farm Loan Board for the Province of New Brunswick, and the Secretary of the Nova Scotia Returned Soldiers' Commission for the administration of the Act in those provinces.

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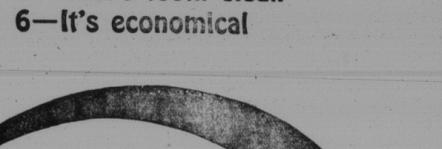
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Among the New Year's honors conferred by His Majesty King George is one of special interest in St. John—the elevation of Lieutenant Colonel Henri R. V. Count de Barry and Borne to be a Commander of the Order of the British Empire. The family has been prominent here for years and the new Commander spent his boyhood here. His career in military life has been followed with interest by local friends, who have been proud of his success and will be greatly pleased at the new honor won. Mrs. Dunes Mullin, of St. John, is a sister.

WRIGLEYS

Six reasons WHY it's a good friend: 1—Steadies nerves 2—Allays thirst 3—Aids appetite 4—Helps digestion 5—Keeps teeth clean 6—It's economical

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