

LAND SETTLEMENT FOR SOLDIERS.

WHAT THE NEW ACT SAYS AND DOES.

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(Third Article.)

Canada is prepared to give all her soldiers and all the soldiers of Britain, a chance to settle on the land on their return to civil life. The following extracts from "The Soldier Settlement Act" and "Regulations of the Soldier Settlement Board," will show those who wish to take advantage of this opportunity what they are entitled to and what they must do to secure it.

1. Those who are entitled to apply for a Soldier Grant:

(a) Any person who has served in the naval or military expeditionary forces of Canada during the present war and who has left the forces with an honourable record or who has been honourably discharged.

(b) Any 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, and who has left the forces with an honourable record or who has been honourably discharged.

(c) Any person who, being a 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, and who has left the forces with an honourable record or who has been honourably discharged.

(d) The widow of any such person described in items (a), (b) or (c) above who died on active service.

2. Conditions of Entry:

(a) A soldier entry shall be for not more than a quarter section of 160 acres.

(b) Shall convey no right to minerals, and no exclusive right to any body of water within the land covered by entry.

(c) Where there are improvements they must be paid for by settler.

(d) Entry for land against which there is a charge in favour of the Crown may be granted only subject to the payment by the entrant of such indebtedness.

(e) Every soldier entry shall be granted subject to the right of the province to take without compensation at any time prior to the issue of letters patent any land which may be required for road purposes, not exceeding four acres in a quarter-section.

(f) Every entry shall be for the sole use and benefit of the holder of the same and not for the use or benefit of any other person or persons whomsoever.

(g) The Board may, if deemed necessary, require the holder of a soldier entry to furnish proof, by declaration or otherwise, that he is duly performing his settlement duties in each year subsequent to the date of his entry.

(h) A quarter-section of land upon which there is not more than twenty-five acres of "merchantable timber," but upon which there is more than twenty-five acres of timber suitable for cord-wood or fence poles, is not open for entry, unless such entry is granted on the condition that it will be subject to the issue of permits upon the remainder of the quarter-section after the entrant has selected, subject to approval, twenty-five acres for his own use.

(i) If after an entry is obtained, it is ascertained that the land entered for, or any portion thereof, is necessary for the protection

of any water supply or for the location or construction of any works necessary to the development of any water-power, the Board may, at any time before the issue of letters patent, cancel the entry or withdraw from its application any portion of the land entered for, but where the land is required for the location or construction of works necessary for the development of any water-power, only in so far as the land is necessary for that purpose, provided, however, that no entry shall be cancelled under the provisions of this paragraph until the entrant has been compensated for any improvements made by him upon the land, the amount of such compensation to be fixed by arbitration if the entrant refuses to accept the compensation allowed by the Board.

3. Settlement Duties

Every holder of a soldier entry shall, except as hereinafter otherwise provided, be required before the issue of letters patent,

(a) to have held the land for his own exclusive use and benefit for three years;

(b) to have resided thereon or in the vicinity thereof as hereinafter provided for at least six months in each of three years from the date of entry, or the date of commencement of residence;

(c) to have cultivated in each year such area of the land entered for as is satisfactory to the Board;

(d) to have erected a habitable house;

(e) to have paid in full the loan, if any, and interest thereon made to him on the land entered for under the provisions of the Soldier Settlement Loan Regulations, and other charges, if any;

(f) to be a British subject, except as otherwise provided.

4. What to do:

1. Nothing can be done by the soldier until he has been discharged.

2. First the soldier must, after discharge or while awaiting discharge, communicate with the Soldier Settlement Board, Ottawa, or local representatives, asking for "Preliminary Information Form."

Where the applicant has served in the Canadian Expeditionary Forces the Settlement Board will consult the Militia Dept. concerning his standing.

In all other cases the applicant must forward his certificate of honourable discharge (registered mail only is advised) or a copy thereof duly certified by the Local Representative or a Notary Public.

3. When the applicant's right as a settler is established, the Board will send him an "Attestation" of such right. This attestation is not transferable and will be surrendered when formal application is made for entry.

4. Next the soldier must select the land for which he wishes to apply. The information as to lands open to him will be made available in the following way:—

(a) No land shall be open for entry under this Act until it has been surveyed and until notice that it is to be open for entry upon a date to be set forth in the notice has been posted for at least 30 days in the land office of the district in which the land is situated, and has been published in at least one news-

paper in that district, and in one newspaper in the provincial capital.

(b) In the case of other than newly surveyed lands the Dominion Lands Agent when notified by the Board to make any land available for entry, shall advertise such land for 10 days by posting a notice in his office giving date on which the land will become available.

(c) Lands reserved under the Act shall be made available for soldier settlement from time to time to any settler who is eligible to make entry.

(d) The right of soldier-entry may be exercised on any parcel of land, which, though not reserved for the purposes of the Soldier Settlement Act, is open to homestead entry under the provisions of the Dominion Lands' Act.

(e) General information concerning lands for soldier settlement Board, Ottawa, or any representative of the Board elsewhere.

Precise information as to whether any particular parcel of land is open to soldier settlement may be secured on application to the Agent of Dominion Lands for the district within which the land is situated.

5. The soldier having received his "Attestation" and selected his land must next apply for entry on a form prescribed by the Board at the office of the Agent of Dominion Lands for the district within which the land is situated, which shall be the office of record for that district.

Application for entry may be made also before any agent or sub-agent of Dominion Lands or a Local Representative of the Board.

Every application for soldier entry shall be made by the settler in person except where a person makes application on behalf of a husband, wife, father, mother, son, daughter, brother, or sister. When duly authorised to do so in the form prescribed. The proxy must appear before the Agent of Dominion Lands for the district.

The settler on whose behalf such entry is made must, before the expiration of 6 months from date of entry, appear personally before the Agent and satisfy him that he is already in residence or on his way to commence residence before the end of the six months.

No fees shall be charged in connection with a soldier entry but the applicant must pay the value of the improvements (if any) on the land, and any charge or indebtedness against it.

6. A certificate of entry will then be issued to the applicant, and this certificate will entitle the recipient to occupy and hold the land.

5. Patent.

After the completion of the settlement duties hereinbefore prescribed, the settler may file proof of the completion thereof. Such proof shall be in the form of a sworn statement by the entrant, corroborated by the sworn statement of two disinterested parties resident in the vicinity. The statement of the applicant and his witnesses shall be given before an officer duly authorised by the Board to receive such evidence.

In the event of the death of an entrant or in the event of an entrant becoming insane

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