

On the purchase of land a cash down payment of 10 per cent is required except in special cases to be determined by the board. In regard to Imperial forces and those of the Dominions, except Canada, the board will require a cash down payment of twenty-five per cent of the cost of the land. The interest and other financial terms are the same to all.

A discharged soldier who does not purchase land from the board is entitled to 160 acres of Crown land in addition to 160 acres which he may obtain as a civilian provided he has not already exhausted his homestead rights.

The board has power to provide agricultural training for inexperienced, but otherwise qualified men, and will pay allowances up to \$55 a month for the sustenance of himself and his dependents, the amount to be dependent upon the number of children.

The board has secured specially favourable prices on farm requirements, and purchases live stock of good quality for resale to soldier settlers at cost price.

This is briefly what the Land Settlement Scheme means to the returned soldier. These privileges are extended to all Canadian, Imperial and colonial forces who served outside the country in which they enlisted, and to residents of Canada before the war who served in Allied forces. The widows of all such persons who died on active service are also included, as well as members of the Royal Flying Corps, who may have been detained in England, but on account of the nature of their work were considered to be in an actual theatre of war. A member of the C.E.F., who, on account of injury sustained while on service for which he is receiving a pension, is also eligible to participate.

#### General Observations.

It is well to note that Great Britain had experience in the subdivision of estates in Ireland and settling thereon the tenants as owners. Australia and New Zealand had land settlement schemes which had been in operation for years. They grappled with a question which was not new. They had but to draw from their experience in modifying their settlement schemes to meet the situation occasioned by the return of thousands of men from the war.

Centuries ago Great Britain exhausted her Crown lands which were available for settlement without considerable development work. The beginning of this century found South Africa, Australia and New Zealand in the position of having very few tracts of Crown lands upon which settle-

ment could be made without the necessity of clearing, irrigating, draining or costly railway extensions. Canada was in a different position.

At the beginning of the century the need of Government purchase and subdivision of land to attract settlers was not as evident in Canada as in the countries mentioned.

To-day, however, available lands which can readily be settled have largely passed from the Crown and it has been necessary, therefore, to inaugurate an entirely new policy which has for its object the making of lands available for settlement.

#### Soldier Settlement Board Operations (Canada).

(These figures to August 23, 1919.)

Number of returned soldiers who have applied to Soldier Settlement Board for Qualification Certificates, 30,903; number of applications approved by Soldier Settlement Board, 23,087; amount of loans approved, \$29,038,901; number of loans, 9,691; average loan, \$2,996.

Loans were granted for the following purposes:

On Purchased Lands.—For Land Purchase, \$15,627,579; for Improvements, \$2,027,139; for stock and Equipment, \$5,387,339. On Dominion Lands, \$3,101,666. On Mortgages, \$2,895,178.

Loans for one week ending August 23, \$2,271,591.

This was the largest amount approved in one week since operations began.

Number of applicants recommended for Agricultural training, 2,761. Number of applicants taking training, 646.

#### Statement of Soldier Grant Entries on Dominion Lands.

Number of soldier entries, 3,967. Of these approximately two-thirds have exercised their right to take up Homestead Entry as well.

#### Summary of Soldier Land Settlement Legislation.

The first Act to assist returned soldiers in settling on the land was passed in 1917 by Parliament. It provided for:

1. The appointment of a Soldier Settlement Board.
2. The reservation of Dominion Lands for soldier settlement.
3. Loans not exceeding \$2,500 for agricultural purposes, with interest at 5 per cent.
4. Agricultural instruction of soldier settlers.

#### Enlarging the Scope.

It was found that there was not available sufficient suitable Dominion land close