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### DOMINION GOVERNMENT DESIRES MORE RAPID HOUSING PROGRESS

IN view of the fact that the Dominion loan for housing purposes was instituted having as one of its objects the stimulation of building operations during the transition period from war to peace, and the providing of employment and housing accommodation for returned soldiers, the Dominion government is anxious that the provinces take advantage of the loan as early as possible during the present year.

This is pointed out in a general statement issued by Hon. N. W. Rowell, chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Housing, which accompanies a memorandum sent to each of the provincial governments outlining the conditions upon which the \$25,000,000 appropriation may be participated in and making certain suggestions as to the development of the scheme in so far as the provinces themselves are concerned.

The conditions and general principles incorporated in the memorandum have already been submitted to the provincial governments and all suggestions which have been made in their behalf have been fully considered and generally adopted. The statement by Mr. Rowell is as follows:—

"In some provinces, special officials are being appointed as directors of housing and town planning, and in others it is proposed to place the administration of these matters under the care of a special commission. Some action of this kind wolld seem to be very desirable in each province with a view to facilitating the work of preparing and carrying out schemes, and to secure that early action will be taken in utilizing the proposed loan.

"The Housing Committee of the Cabinet have arranged with Thomas Adams, housing and town planning adviser of the Commission of Conservation, to co-operate with the officers of the provincial governments in preparing and promoting schemes. General schemes prepared by the provincial governments and the communications of provincial authorities with regard to any details, may be sent to Thomas Adams at Ottawa. Municipalities and individuals should direct their communications to their own provincial governments or officers.

"It is hoped that the Federal branch of administration may be found useful to the different provinces as a clearing house for comparative information 'regarding details of schemes, methods of standardization of dwellings, costs of construction, town planning procedure, methods of expropriating lands for schemes, model plans of dwellings, statistics regarding amounts and periods of repayment of loans, etc.

"The conditions and general principles incorporated in the accompanying memorandum have been submitted to the provincial governments and all suggestions which have been made on their behalf have been fully considered, and generally adopted."

The memorandum attached to the above statement is a lengthy one, explaining in detail the condition on which the loan is granted, the terms of repayment and the standards recommended.

## CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES

E NGINEERS who are civil servants in the employ of the Dominion Government may expect an early and substantial increase in salary, as the Civil Service Commission of Canada, of which W. J. Roche is chairman, sometime ago employed a staff of experts to classify the civil servants and to recommend readjustment of salaries. Knowing that this work was being done, a committee representing the council of the Engineering Institute of Canada, submitted to the experts a recommended schedule of engineering salaries which the institute considers to be fair and reasonable.

This schedule calls for increases of from 50% to 250% in the salaries of the engineers employed by the various departments of the Government.

There is, of course, no definite knowledge that this recommended schedule of salaries will be adopted, but it is understood that it is being given serious consideration by the classification experts, and it is expected that it will be adopted very largely and perhaps even in its entirety. The chairman of the commission informs *The Canadian Engi*neer that the classification will likely be completed within the next three weeks, and that it will then be submitted to Governor-in-Council before being made public.

## CANADA'S RESOURCES OVERESTIMATED?

THE tenth annual meeting of the Commission of Conservation was held in Ottawa recently, and occupied three days. Senator W. C. Edwards presided in the absence of Sir Clifford Sifton, chairman of the commission, who resigned some weeks ago, but whose resignation has not yet been accepted.

Referring to the work of the commission, the acting chairman said that, for his part, he thought much had been accomplished in ten years. The legislation with regard to railways and the consequent saving of our forests, due to the efforts of the commission, was in itself sufficient justification for its existence. He made a strong protest against the distribution of the idea, so prevalent, that Canada's resources are inexhaustible. This idea is, he believed, productive of waste. He declared that the lumber east of the Rocky Mountains is almost exhausted, and that every province in the Dominion over-estimates its lumber resources. Canada is rich in pulp wood, but unless the supply is conserved, she will not long continue so. Fisheries and minerals must also be saved.

The reconstruction work being carried on was criticized by the speaker. "A lot of commissions which have been established for dealing with after the war problems," he said, "will do little good. A careful study of the national resources of