

Department, and it will be the duty, as it will be the privilege, of every unaccompanied woman to take the benefit of such Government-conducted party, which will ensure greater confidence and comfort *en route*, and, in addition, a discriminatory supervision over the employment in Canada which will appeal at once to all well-disposed persons as being sometimes necessary, and at all times advisable.

The Soldier Settlement Board of Canada, designed by the Canadian Parliament to assist ex-Canadian soldiers to settle successfully on the land, have power to loan money to such applicants, not only for the purchase of improved farms, but for implements and other necessities on a farm, and certain of these



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provisions have been extended to Imperial ex-Service men. When one realizes that probably 36,000 Canadian ex-soldiers have already been dealt with by the Settlement Board, and have had advanced to them nearly forty-eight million dollars, the evidence is sufficient that the plan of settlement is desirable, and the extension of it to Imperial ex-Service men is an evidence at once of the good faith of the Canadian Government towards all ex-Service men in this matter, and will be taken advantage of by those looking forward to the early future when they will become owners of their own farm in Canada, which is a condition that seldom falls to the lot of any farm labourer in the British Isles.

Add to this the arrangements under which the British Government will give free transportation to a port of landing in Canada for Imperial ex-Service men and women, the way seems more easy to get to our Dominion than before; but such is the concern of the Canadian people, not only for the welfare

of their own community, but by restricting the undesirable, we lead each accepted new-comer to feel himself and herself a potential factor in the development and prosperity of Canada itself. This is a hope that will come to full fruition if individuals are properly advised and selected, and if they will follow the direction and accept the supervision which the Canadian Government gives from time to time, to which is added the undoubted value of the potential advice and assistance of all Women's Organizations and other institutions in Canada.

Irrigation in South Alberta.

THE demand of the Alberta farmer for further irrigation extension in Southern Alberta and South-west Saskatchewan, so emphatically raised at the recent Irrigation Convention, is apparently being heard, for already the Minister of the Interior, accompanied by the Superintendent of the Reclamation Service, and the Minister of Colonization and Immigration, has visited the West and discussed the situation with bodies of farmers at Maple Creek, Raymond, Lethbridge, Macleod, Calgary, etc. And they have promised that further surveys for that purpose will be undertaken without delay.

For a long time many claimed that irrigation was unnecessary in Western Canada. Conditions of drought do not regularly occur there, and quite apart from the fact that the scientific principles of dry farming have now obtained a great following, there was not, they insisted, the same urgency for irrigation as in other less fortunate countries, where the rainfall is usually so small as to make agriculture impossible without it.

When one looks back over the history of irrigation in the West and remembers the strenuous opposition the movement met with from the public generally, one is struck with the radical right-about-face in sentiment; for not only is it now admitted to be advantageous, but farmers throughout practically the whole of the south demand its extension if agriculture is to be permanently successful. Doubtless, experience of the past two years, with a rainfall in Southern Alberta of less than 10 inches and the bumper crops raised by irrigationists, is responsible for this unanimous change in opinion.

The semi-arid portion of Alberta occupies a belt approximately 160 miles in width north of the State of Montana, and extends from the mountains on the west across the entire southern base of the Province, merging into the more humid climate of Saskatchewan at the eastern limits of the Cypress Hills. Dr. Samuel Fortier, consulting irrigation engineer of the United States Department of Agriculture, who a few years ago thoroughly investigated irrigation conditions in Alberta, gave it as his opinion that in portions of these Provinces the natural rainfall is insufficient for profitable farming, and that the main issue would not be so much whether irrigation is necessary or not, but rather, just how long profitable crops could be grown without it; and his prediction has proved correct.

Many arguments can be advanced in favour of irrigation being in all ways superior to dry farming.