PURCHASE LAND FOR SOLDIERS BY COMPULSION

New Bill requires Board to publish usual legal notice that "Blocks" are declared Settlement Area

COMPENSATION ADJUSTED

Of far-reaching importance is the section of the new Soldier Land Settlement Bill now before Parliament which enables the Soldier Settlement Board to compulsorily purchase such agricultural lands as it requires for the purpose of placing returned soldiers on farms, says a statement issued by the Soldier Settlement Board. The new Act declares that the Board may define settlement areas, but these settlement areas "shall be established only in districts wherein by reason of lands remaining undeveloped agricultural production is being retarded."

The Soldier Settlement Board is to be the sole judge of what lands are retarding agricultural development and shall have the power to go upon those lands and resort to the necessary processes of law to make them available for soldier settlement. The new Bill requires the Board to publish the usual legal notice in the Gazette and newspapers that certain lands are declared a "settlement area," and each owner of a block of land within the area is required to file a return with the District Superintendent of the Board naming the price at which he is willing to sell. After thirty days the Board may require the owner to convey the land and advise him of the amount of compensation which the Board is willing to pay for such land.

In the event of the owner refusing to sell or if no agreement can be arranged, the Board shall gazette a notice that the land has been compulsorily purchased with the amount of compensation money stated.

ADJUSTING THE CLAIM.

If the owner claims the compensation is inadequate, the Board may within sixty days lay information before the Exchequer Court and proceedings will be instituted for the purpose of adjusting the claim. If resistance is made to the Board's taking possession of any lands, a judge of the Exchequer Court or any Superior Court may issue his warrant to the Sheriff of the District directing him to put down such resistance and to place the Board in possession of the property.

The Board may enter upon any land for the purpose of making surveys or tests. This feature of the Bill which is contained in Part Three is absolutely new. The remainder of the Bill is simply a consolidation of the Act of 1917 which dealt with the setting apart of Crown Lands in the three Prairie Provinces for soldier settlement, and of the several Orders in Council that have been passed since that time giving the Soldier Settlement Board further powers. The principal Order in Council was passed on February 11, this year, and enabled the Board to acquire, by purchase, lands in any Province that may be required for soldier settlement and to resell such lands and to loan sums of money, aggregating $7,500, to a soldier for land purchase, equipment and the erection of permanent improvements. This Order in Council resulted in very increased activity on the part of the Soldier Settlement Board. Up till the end of February, under the operation of the old Act, the Board had loaned $1,658,105.40 to soldiers settling on Dominion lands. In March, under the operations of the Order in Council of February 11, the Board made loans amounting to $964,913.60 and in April of $3,283,669.

APPLIED FOR BENEFITS.

Figures also are available showing the number of returned men who have applied to the Soldier Settlement Board in all the provinces for the benefits of the Order in Council and the old Act. Up till May 17, 1919, there had been 12,258 applications received by the Qualification Committees of the various districts. These committees had approved of 7,900. That is, this number had demonstrated to the Board their fitness to assume the obligations of the soldier settler. A considerable number of others were placed in the category "Further training required," and during this summer will be given instruction either at training centres specially equipped by the Board or with high-class farmers throughout the country who will deem it a privilege to instruct a veteran of the Great War in practical farming. There will be thousands of these young men, students of agriculture, who will thus become sufficiently acquainted with the conditions of the district in which they propose to settle and of farm life generally to warrant the Board in fully qualifying them to become beneficiaries.

The largest number of settlers approved was in Alberta where 2,037 were pasesd by the qualification committees. Saskatchewan has 1,869 in this class; Manitoba 1,635; British Columbia 1,129; Ontario 428; New Brunswick 235; Nova Scotia 200; Quebec 162; Prince Edward Island 155.

Peat as Fuel.

There are 37,000 square miles of good peat bogs in Canada, but the production of peat amounts to only a few hundred tons per year, it is stated in the final report of the Fuel Controller, which points out that Europe uses about 20,000,000 tons of peat annually as fuel. "The question arises whether Canada could not utilize as fuel the extensive peat deposits known to exist, especially in Central Canada, where there are no coal deposits," the report says. Peat is mechanically dried in Canada, and is said to burn with a blue flame, intense heat, leaving no soot. It has been used chiefly in grate fires as a substitute for cannel coal.

DEVELOPMENT IN LIFE AND FIRE INSURANCE

During the past fifty years in Canada, an immense development has taken place in insurance business of all sorts. In 1869, the amount of fire insurance at risk in Canada was $188,359,809. In 1917, the amount was $3,986,197,514. In 1875 the net life insurance in force was $85,009,264. In 1917 this amounted to $1,585,042,563, as stated in the Canada Year Book for 1918.

CANADA SECOND AMONG COUNTRIES OF WORLD IN WATERPOWER RESOURCES

Per Capita Development is Larger than that of any other Country except Norway

19,000,000 H.P. AVAILABLE

With the exception of the United States, Canada has more available water-power than any other country. In water-power resources the United States is first among the nations with an estimated available horse-power of 28,100,000, Canada is second with nearly 19,000,000 horse-power, and Austria-Hungary is third with 6,460,000. The present per capita power developed in Canada is larger than all other countries except Norway, according to a statement furnished by Mr. J. B. Challies, C.E., Superintendent of the Dominion Water-power Branch, Department of the Interior, to the Canada Year Book for 1918, from which the following is taken:—

"No country enjoys to a greater degree than Canada the benefits of cheap dependable hydro-power, and no country has had these benefits more universally applied for municipal, industrial, and domestic use. That Canada is one of the great water-power countries is due largely to (1) the nature and extent of water resources—abundance and seasonable distribution of rainfall; the regimen of the rivers—upper waters well forested with large lakes suitable for regulation—rivers flowing through valleys with well-concentrated falls; (2) the fortunate location of the waterfalls with respect to existing commercial centres and related raw materials; (3) the action of Dominion and Provincial Governments in having them thoroughly investigated and intelligently administered; (4) the foresight of the capitalist and the professional skill of the engineer in water-power development and use; (5) the almost universal adaptation of electrical energy for municipal, industrial, and domestic purposes.

USES OF CANADIAN WATER-POWERS.

"Within economic transmission range of practically every important city from the Atlantic to the Pacific, except those in the central western prairies, there are clustered water-power sites which will meet the popular demands for hydro-electric power for generations.

"In general the use of Canadian water-powers may be distributed as (a) for municipal purposes; (b) for pulp and paper; and (c) for electro-chemical and similar processes. For municipal, including domestic and ordinary industrial purposes, about 78 per cent of the total has been developed, or 1,348,490 horse-power. For these uses further requirements will probably be met for some years by additional installations at, and increased storage for, existing plants. In certain centres, as, for instance, the Niagara power zone, growing requirements can only be met by new water-power developments.

"For pulp and paper about 14 per cent of the total has been developed, or 248,075 horse-power. Further requirements can probably be met for some time by additional installations to present plants, although the growth of this industry will necessitate the development of new water-powers in different parts of the Dominion.

"For the electro-chemical and similar processes about 8 per cent of the total has been developed, or 140,000 horse-power. One of the most important electro-chemical processes is the fixation of nitrogen; about 30,000 horse-power is used for this purpose at Niagara by the American Cyanamid Company, and while other plants of this kind have so far not been put into operation commercially in this country, they have been seriously contemplated and only await a sufficient source of low-price power for realization. The electro-metallurgical industry is in its infancy, but promises great expansion, especially in the production of nicu-steel in Canada. During the last two years there has been rapid growth in the use of electric furnaces for the production of the highest grades of steel."

AVAILABLE AND DEVELOPED WATER-POWER LISTED.

Province.	Power Available.	Power Developed
Prince Edward Isd.	3,000	500
Nova Scotia	100,000	21,412
New Brunswick	300,000	13,390
Quebec	6,000,000	520,000
Ontario	5,800,000	789,466
Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta	3,500,000	76,250 / 100 / 32,860
British Columbia	3,000,000	269,620
Yukon	100,000	12,000
Total	18,803,000	1,735,598

WATER AND STORAGE AREAS.

The report on the water-powers of Canada, issued by the Commission of Conservation, contains the following:—

"Canada has an estimated water area of 125,755 square miles. Hence, as compared with estimated area of 52,630 square miles of water area in the continental United States, Canada is seen to have nearly two and one-half times the water area possessed by the United States.

"An exceedingly valuable feature, very likely to be associated with extensive water areas, is the existence of vast natural reservoirs, where the run-off from precipitation is impounded, and subsequently discharged gradually during the year. Thus, water-powers situated within the range of the direct influence of such natural storage reservoirs may be of incomparably greater value than other water-powers not so favoured. In the matter of easily developed water storage systems, no other large territory on the American continent is so highly favoured as is the Dominion of Canada.

"When the subject of storage reservoirs is under consideration, it must not be forgotten that Nature also stores her waters elsewhere than in lakes and rivers. Forest floors, extensive areas covered with plant growth, and the great swamps of the country, each and all constitute valuable water reservoirs. In such reservoirs there is a widespread and satisfactory distribution of waters, which enables Nature to yield her supplies gradually and as required. A discreet conservation and utilization of such reservoirs will, in general, be found to be much more desirable than are some of the large artificially created reservoirs, where the liability of accidental destruction of large construction works is always more or less of a menace."

QUEBEC HAS HIGHEST BIRTHRATE IN CANADA

According to figures contained in the Canada Year Book for 1918, the birth rate per 1,000 is highest in Quebec, with 38·64 births per 1,000 living, and lowest in British Columbia with 13·12, Ontario stands at 24·14, Nova Scotia at 25·12, Manitoba at 33·85, Saskatchewan at 29·70, Alberta at 26·85 and Prince Edward Island at 17·04.

Parcels for Prisoners.

The Canadian Red Cross Society during the war sent a total number of 530,054 parcels containing food, clothing, and tobacco to Canadian prisoners of war, as shown by a statement in the report of the Overseas Minister of Militia.