

PRACTICAL COURSES IN FARMING FOR RETURNED SOLDIERS IN ALBERTA

University of Alberta will provide unusual facilities for training returned men in Agriculture.

FIVE MONTHS' COURSE.

In an article in the April number of the Agricultural Gazette of Canada, issued by the Department of Agriculture, the statement is made that 75 men are already registered for the course in agriculture for returned soldiers at the University of Alberta. The course comprises five months' training and instruction in practical farming. The work for each month, it is stated, is a separate unit, so that a man may enter at the first of any month and carry out his five months' course without special attention or class work. All the non-essentials are eliminated and, wherever possible, actual practice is given.

The subjects of the course cover animal husbandry, field husbandry, horticulture, dairying, carpentry, blacksmithing, poultry raising, farm machinery and veterinary science.

FIELD INSTRUCTION.

"In connection with these courses," says E. A. Howes, B.S.A., dean of the College of Agriculture of Alberta University, the writer of the article, "we have undertaken to seed 3,000 acres to crop this spring and to break 5,000 acres of new land during the summer."

"In the animal husbandry course the live stock judging is done in the college pavilion. The aim of this course is to acquaint the student not only with the types and the market classes of live stock, but with the characteristics of the different breeds as well. The work of feeding and management of each of the classes of live stock is given concurrently with the judging classes."

"In field husbandry seeding and soil management are systematically dealt with. In horticulture, vegetables, floriculture, landscape gardening, and fruit growing and forestry are all covered."

"The dairying course covers all features of the work, from the handling of the dairy herd to the various products of the dairy."

"Poultry studies include the breeds and breeding, as well as raising, fattening, killing and marketing."

DEMONSTRATIONS IN BUILDING.

"In the carpentry course the men are taught to make simple pieces of equipment, and to effect repairs in wood work. The simple principles of building construction are also dealt with. Logs are being secured and training is to be given in 'shack' building."

"In the blacksmithing course it is recognized that the 'village blacksmith' is becoming almost extinct throughout the country, and that farmers must depend on themselves to repair machinery, shoe horses, and similar work."

"In the veterinary course the students are taught how to nurse animals and to handle at least the most common diseases."

"It must be remembered that the College of Agriculture was not equipped for all of this work. An old machine shop was fitted anew and turned into a blacksmith shop equipped with 16 forges, anvil and necessary tools. Two rooms in the engineering building were secured for carpentry work, and equipped with 12 large serviceable benches, each accommodating two men. Part of the dairy equipment was kindly loaned by commercial firms; part had to be purchased. A large greenhouse was added to the existing equipment to give facilities for work in soils, seeds, flowers and vegetables. A room was fitted up for practising seed testing, fanning mill work, and different types of seed treatment. These were extras, of course, added to the existing equipment in field husbandry, animal husbandry,

and horticulture. Some instances of unclassified work are as follow:—

(a) Logs are being procured and training is to be given in 'shack' building.

(b) A full demonstration will be given in regard to hog-killing, dressing and packing, all done in such a way as would be carried on at such a farm house.

(c) Demonstrations at the stockyards will be given in dehorning and branding.

(d) At the slaughter houses of the packing plant condemned carcasses have been reserved and used for class material to show the nature of some of the leading live-stock diseases.

"It would not be fair to close this more or less formal statement without expressing a word of appreciation of the regularity and punctuality of the attendance of this class. Much satisfaction is expressed by all of the teaching staff in regard to the attention and general attitude of the men taking this special course in agriculture."

VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

Besides the courses given to returned soldiers at the University of Alberta, a course of vocational training is being carried on at Calgary. This branch of the work has been completely reorganized during the present winter. That course deals chiefly with farm mechanics, in which the classes contain about 170 men. Twenty of these are taking the gas engine and tractor course, while the others are taking the full farm mechanics course.

CONTRIBUTION TO MEAT SUPPLY OF ENGLAND

Canada could send more declares British Annual Report on Trade.

The new and more effective system of live stock enumeration officially adopted last year establishes the rather surprising fact that cattle in the Dominion now number over 10,000,000 head, as compared with previous estimates of about 6,000,000 head says the Annual Review of the Frozen Meat Trade, 1918, issued in London. The difference is material and very important from the point of view of Empire production. It is evident that Canada, with that number of cattle of good quality, ought now to be able to contribute much more liberally than hitherto to the meat supply of the mother country. Exports last year amounted to only 46,000 tons, of which about 5,000 tons were of United States origin. In 1917, the quantity exported was 55,000 tons, of which 14,564 tons reached the United Kingdom, the remainder going to the continent. About two-thirds of the Canadian output in 1918 was shipped to the United Kingdom for civilian consumption, the quantity imported being 29,332 tons. Much of it was fairly useful beef, but some was of very poor quality. The practice of disposing of meat and live stock produced in certain parts of the Dominion to United States buyers, and at the same time shipping American killed meat from Canadian ports, may conceivably be more profitable to the Dominion than shipping everything direct to England; but it does not help forward the British Government's declared intention of making the empire as far as possible self-supporting in the matter of meat supplies.

ALLIED WARSHIPS TO PAY PILOTAGE DUES

The exemption of Allied warships from pilotage dues has been rescinded by the following order:—

"His Excellency the Governor General in Council, on the recommendation of the Acting Minister of Marine and Fisheries, is pleased to order and it is hereby ordered that the Order in Council of the 22nd December, 1917 (P.C. 3449), exempting the warships of Allied nations from the payment of pilotage dues, shall be and the same is hereby rescinded."

OVER 5,000 HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED FOR LAND SCHEME

Alberta heads list of Soldier Settlement with total of 1,632 approved as ready for Land Grant

MANY APPLICATIONS.

Over 5,000 applications from returned soldiers in the Western Provinces who desire to take advantage of the land settlement scheme have been approved by the Soldier Settlement Board. Up to April 26 the number of applications approved within the various provinces was as follows: Alberta, 1,632; Manitoba, 1,377; Saskatchewan, 1,142; British Columbia, 781.

With the home-coming of the fighting units, applications are now coming in rapidly and keep the Board's officials busy handling them. However, there is no hitch, cases being dealt with in an expeditious manner. From February 10 to April 19, 4,225 applications were approved. One hundred and forty thousand acres of selected land reserved for the Hudson's Bay Company have been thrown open for occupation under the Soldier Settlement scheme. This, and the prospect of other reserved lands being opened, has had the effect of reassuring many who thought that there might be very little homestead land available.

PLANTING ROOTS FOR NEXT YEAR'S SEEDING

Experimental Farms Note gives advice to Growers. Early work best.

As the time for planting mangels, turnips, and carrots for seed is at hand, a few recommendations relative to planting may be opportune, states an Experimental Farms note issued by the Department of Agriculture.

In the first place, any one who has saved some roots for the purpose of raising from them what seed he will need for next year's seeding should use only the very best roots. It is of course evident that, if the most satisfactory results are to be obtained, the roots to be used for seed production must be perfectly sound; otherwise the seed grower runs the risk of going to the trouble of planting, only to find that after a while the stand of the seed crop becomes thin and disreputable looking as the diseased roots rot in the ground.

The roots used for seed production should, furthermore, be as uniform as possible in respect to general type. That is to say, they should be of the same colour and of the same general shape. It is of minor importance that they be uniform in size, as experience has shown that small roots produce about as much seed as large ones and that the quality of the seed produced by small roots is just as good as the quality of the seed produced by large ones.

The roots chosen for seed raising should be planted in rows anywhere from 2½ to 3 feet apart, so as to make it possible to horse-cultivate between the rows. Mangels and swede turnips should, in order to be given a chance to branch out freely, be spaced anywhere from two to three feet apart in the rows; in the case of carrots, the roots may be planted closer together—say, from 1½ to 2 feet apart in the rows. If only a small number of roots are

to be set out, the planting may be done with a spade. This method of planting is very simple. Holes are made at the proper distances sufficiently deep to allow the roots placed therein to be just nicely covered with earth. When the roots are placed in the holes, the soil should be packed around them. The planting is done properly if the tops of the roots are just a little below the surface of the ground.

If a large area is to be planted, it is, especially if help is scarce, more economical to plant with a plough. Furrows are made, and the roots are placed receding on the slanting side of the furrow at the proper distance apart in such a way that the soil turned over by the plough in the next round will just cover the tops. Then a third furrow is ploughed, and no roots are planted in it. To be brief, the roots should be planted in every third furrow and placed in such a manner that the plough barely covers them with the soil. If the tops are left uncovered, they may dry out if the weather turns hot; but if, on the other hand, the roots are buried too deep, the seed stalks sprouting from them may have some difficulty to break through, especially if the roots are small.

No matter what methods are followed in the planting of the roots, it is essential that the roots be set out as early as it is possible to go on the land, for, according to experience, the early planting brings the heaviest seed yields.

PENSIONS STILL WAITING

There are many additional names of soldiers by whom pensions might be claimed. The numbers given with each name should be quoted in replying to the Board of Pensions Commissioners at Ottawa. The Board has issued the following list of last known addresses of claimants who cannot be traced:—

Pte. M. Holligan, 12th Battalion (60410).
Pte. Frank Bullis, 253rd Battalion (40502).
Pte. Arthur Smith, C.A.M.C. (58930).
Sgt. Walter Scott, No. 4 C.A.S.C. (63362).
Pte. Clement Claes, 200th Battalion (29808).
Pte. Pete Hoel, 197th Battalion (31854).
Pte. Henry Smith, 252nd Battalion (5521G.).
Pte. J. La Vassor, 10th Battalion (61474).
Pte. Albert Derome, No. 5 District Depot (61947).
Pte. W. Moore, 72nd Battalion (57485).
Pte. Donald McDonald, 7th C.R.T. (61049).
Pte. Joseph Lockman, 235th Battalion (106595).
Pte. John Francis, 1st Depot Battalion (107571).
Pte. Thomas Deadman, 216th Battalion (102778).
Pte. Fred Girard, Forestry Depot (30473).
Pte. William Long, 15th Battalion (32258).
Pte. William Apted, 26th Battalion (39788).
Pte. John Conroy, 14th Battalion (3780).
Pte. William Sheppard, 113th Battalion (50108).
Pte. Robert Whitley, Forestry Construction Draft (34610).
Cpl. Ernest Carr, No. 2 District Depot (54814).
Spr. John Jones, C.E.T.D. (4598G.).
Pte. John Baker, No. 1 District Depot (101186).
Gnr. Herbert Lee, C.F.A. (101323).
Pte. Joseph Keeler, 42nd Battalion (102774).
Pte. Hector Alexander, 2nd Battalion (104801).
Pte. William Conway, No. 7 District Depot (102450).

W.S. Stamps pay 4½% compounded.