

Canadian Official Record.

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EXTRACT FROM ORDER IN COUNCIL No. 2206.

"The Committee of the Privy Council further observes that as this war is being waged by the whole people of Canada, it is desirable that the whole people should be kept as fully informed as possible as to the acts of the Government which are concerned with the conduct of the war, as well as with the solution of our domestic problems; and for this purpose an Official Record should be instituted to be issued weekly for the purpose of conveying information as to all Government measures in connection with the war and as to the national war activities generally.

GET INFORMATION AT DISTRICT COMMANDS

Memorandum of Department of Militia Advises Enquiring Public

A memorandum issued by the Department of Militia and Defence says:

"Since the armistice the Militia Department is in receipt of an ever-increasing volume of inquiries regarding individual soldiers, the movement of units and kindred matters. The widespread public interest and the natural desire for the fullest possible information is appreciated at militia headquarters and a considerable staff is kept busy answering the innumerable inquiries forwarded by correspondents from all parts of Canada.

"As demobilization progresses, public interest will increase rather than abate and for this reason the department desires the public to be informed that questions can be more quickly answered if they are directed in the first instance to the headquarters of the military district in which the inquirer resides. Daily routine orders are published at Ottawa and forwarded to every military district. These orders contain a vast amount of information regarding troops and the progress of demobilization. They are designed to place the military authorities in the various districts in a position to answer readily questions which may be asked and generally to diffuse throughout the country the fullest possible information regarding Canadian troops. In many cases the inquiries received at militia headquarters, Ottawa, are of such a nature as to require a reference to the military district concerned before the inquiry can be answered. This being so, it is pointed out that if the district authorities are approached in the first instance the information can be promptly given in the great majority of cases. Should reference to militia headquarters, Ottawa, be necessary this can be done by district officials and much time and unnecessary correspondence avoided.

FOOD BOARD PENALTIES.

Incomplete records given in the report of the work of the Canada Food Board, show the following number of fines imposed throughout Canada by Provincial authorities, and the suspension of licenses, by Food Board's Enforcement Division: Fines, 142; imprisonments 4, suspensions 133, confiscations 17, forced sales 8.

MINIMUM FINE FOR M.S.A. DEFAULTERS FIXED BY ORDER

*New Regulations Affecting
Deserters or Men Absent
Without Leave names figures
as Least Penalty.*

PASSED ON FEB. 24

Fines which may be imposed on defaulters under the Military Service Act are not to be less than \$250 and not more than \$5,000 by an Order in Council passed on February 24, amending the regulations. The text of the order is as follows:

Whereas the Acting Minister of Justice reports that by the regulations established by Order in Council of 9th November, 1917, every person who deserts or is absent without leave from the Canadian Expeditionary Force or the active militia of Canada is, subject to the provisions of the above mentioned regulations, guilty of an offence and liable upon summary conviction to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for a term not exceeding two years;

That no provision is, however made for imposing upon such offenders a fine or pecuniary penalty in lieu of imprisonment, although some of the magistrates before whom these prosecutions have been heard have interpreted their powers as affording them discretion to do so;

That the regulations were amended by Order in Council of 12th February, 1919, authorizing constables, police and peace officers to deliver deserters or absentees without leave to the military authorities, declaring these offences cognizable by the military tribunals and providing that the civil police service and duties shall be performed only by the Dominion Police, the Royal North West Mounted Police, or such provincial, municipal or local police as might be thereunto specially authorized by Dominion authority, and providing moreover that it should be incompetent to any court of summary jurisdiction or to the civil tribunals to proceed to the hearing or disposition of any charge of an offence of desertion or absence without leave unless the person charged were in such proper custody;

That there is thus adequate authority for resort to the military tribunals, and that procedure will be invoked where it is necessary or desirable for purposes of convenience or for the due administration of justice;

And whereas the Minister considers that a discretion may nevertheless properly be committed to the civil tribunals to impose fines or pecuniary penalties in lieu of imprisonment where in the opinion of the court it appears just or advisable in view of the circumstances, and that convictions heretofore made in which punishment has been imposed by way of fine or pecuniary penalty rather than by imprisonment should be validated, subject to the provisions of the regulations hereby enacted;

Therefore, His Excellency the Governor General in Council, under and by virtue of the powers conferred on the Governor in Council by the War Measures Act, 1914, or otherwise existing in that behalf, is pleased to make the following regulations and the same are hereby made and established accordingly:—

REGULATIONS.

1. Where under the regulations approved by Order in Council of 9th November, 1917, (P.C. 3168) or any regulations amending the same, punishment by imprisonment only, with or without hard labour, is provided for the offence of desertion or absence without leave from the Canadian Expeditionary Force, the punishment may be by fine not exceeding \$5,000, and not less than \$250 or by imprisonment as aforesaid, in the discretion of the court, and if a fine be so imposed the sentence shall direct that in default of payment of the fine, the person convicted shall be imprisoned, with or without hard labour,

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"Canada's Triumphs."

PRACTICALLY 25,000 BOYS IN "SOLDIERS OF SOIL" ORGANIZATION

*Boy Volunteers Enlisted by
Canada Food Board did real
Service on Soil in 1918 says
report.*

That 22,385 boys were enrolled and 20,431 assigned to farmers, as a result of the "Soldiers of the Soil" movement organized under the direction of the Canada Food Board, is shown in the report of the chairman of the Food Board, issued recently by the Department of Agriculture.

Of this enrollment, 10,324 were Ontario boys, 2,293 were from Nova Scotia, 1,925 from Saskatchewan, 1,800 were British Columbia boys, 1,650 belonged to Manitoba, 1,560 were enrolled in Quebec, 1,218 in Alberta, 855 in New Brunswick and 760 in Prince Edward Island.

On account of the shortage of farm labourers, and the urgent need of greater production steps were taken before seeding time in 1918, to enlist this army of from 15 to 19 years of age, and an appeal was launched simultaneously in each province, and was made particularly to boys of the High Schools, Collegiate Institutes and Academies to give up their plans for vacation, and go out for three months or more to help the farmers to produce food, according to the report.

It was not altogether an experiment. In some parts of Canada groups had already been organized. In certain provinces the provincial governments had already established agencies through which the boys could be officially assigned to farmers through those departments. The Ontario Trades and Labour Branch, and the Manitoba Department of Immigration and Colonization rendered good service. In the other provinces it was necessary to establish practically a new department for the temporary requirements of the "S.O.S." Applications were received from farmers directly. With the aid of the boy labour, far more extensive seeding operations than had originally been planned by the farmers were carried out. Bronze badges of honor were presented, on behalf of the Food Board, to boys who had served three months on the farm, it is stated in the report.

The report acknowledges the services of the Provincial Departments of Agriculture, Labour and Education, the National Council of Young Men's Christian Associations, whose staff was loaned without charge and leaders of Boy Scout organizations, who rendered efficient service, and the work of hundreds of committeemen.

as the case may be, until the fine is paid; provided that such imprisonment shall not be for any term in excess of that which might have been imposed for the offence, and that the person convicted shall not be liable or compelled both to pay a fine and to suffer imprisonment.

2. No conviction for any offence described in the last preceding regulation shall be invalid or objectionable, or subject to review upon appeal, certiorari or otherwise merely because the punishment thereby awarded or imposed was a fine or pecuniary penalty of an amount not exceeding \$5,000, and not less than \$250, if the person convicted is adjudged to be imprisoned in default of payment of the fine for a term not in excess of the maximum term of imprisonment by law authorized to be imposed for the said offence.

3. Nothing in the foregoing regulations contained shall be deemed to validate or affect any conviction for the making of which the jurisdiction of the court or magistrate was defective by reason of the Crown not being represented upon the prosecution, or by reason of lack of the requisite consent of the Attorney General as by law required, or otherwise than as specifically provided in the last preceding regulation.

4. These regulations shall apply to offences heretofore committed and to pending cases as well as to future offences.

RODOLPHE BOUDREAU,
Clerk of the Privy Council.

Canada's Crop in 1918.

The final report of the 1918 crop of Canada gives the production of the different crops as follows: Wheat, 139,301,000 bushels, compared with 233,743,000 bushels in 1917; oats, 380,274,000, compared with 403,010,000 in 1917; barley, 77,290,000, compared with 55,058,000; rye, 8,497,000, compared with 3,857,000; flaxseed, 5,972,000, compared with 5,934,000; corn for husking, 14,214,000, compared with 7,763,000; potatoes, 104,513,000, compared with 79,892,000; and sugar beets, 180,000, compared with 118,000, according to figures in the February issue of the "Agricultural Gazette."

Food Board Licenses.

At present in Canada there are 936 wholesale grocers, 36,142 retail grocers, and 12,684 general retailers doing business under licenses issued by the Canada Food Board, and up to the present the wholesale grocery firms have paid in fees for licenses \$45,857.85, the retail grocers \$89,503.53, and the general retailers \$32,444.38, a total of \$167,805.76, paid by a total of 49,762 firms, according to the report of the Food Board, recently issued.