

REPORT TABLED ON OPERATIONS OF THE M.S.A.

Important Phases of Administration and many Statistical results contained in Department of Justice report.

IS COMPLETE SUMMARY

[Continued from page 1.]

had temporarily ceased in September on account of the influenza epidemic and other causes mentioned in the report. This is regarded as an achievement, says the report, especially when viewed in the light of the fact that, with exception of 2,855 of the nineteen-year-old class, not only were the entire 179,933 men obtained from Class 1 as originally defined—that is, unmarried men or widowers without children of ages twenty to thirty-four inclusive—but at the time of the passage of the Military Service Act the country had been drained of 437,387 of her choicest and most willing young men by the volunteer system. The extent of this last handicap on the operation of the Military Service Act in limiting available material may best be seen under a realization that the forces raised in this country prior to that Act correspond in proportion to the respective populations to a volunteer army in continental United States of 5,511,000.

Leaving out the men ready for call on November 11, 1918, the Act has resulted in a total of 153,708 men being turned over to the military authorities—not including any men who, at the time of ordering, had not been medically examined and who upon reporting were at once found to be not physically fit—this total being made up of 116,347 men ordered to report for duty by registrars, 19,644 Class 1 registrants voluntarily reporting to C.E.F. units and 7,673 to units outside the C.E.F. before orders were issued to them, and 10,044 unregistered defaulters apprehended and placed on military strength.

24,139 DID NOT REPORT.

Of the total 153,708, some 16,108 men, although at the time of ordering rated by competent military medical boards as of available categories, were subsequently returned to the jurisdiction of registrars owing in general to their being lowered in category after being placed in uniform, and although such reduction in medical category does not operate in diminution of the results obtained by the Department of Justice, it is seen that omitting these men so returned to registrars' records, 137,600 men of finally approved physical fitness were placed and kept under military jurisdiction by the Military Service Act. Of this latter number, however, 24,139 disobeyed their orders to report for duty—that is, became Group III defaulters—and at the time of the signing of the armistice were unapprehended by the military police, thus leaving finally 113,461 bona fide soldiers in uniform as furnished by the Military Service Act up to November 11, 1918.

A comparison is shown in the report, to the effect that during the thirteen months' operation of the Military Service Act, 179,933 civilians were made available for military service, of whom 129,569 were placed in uniform, whereas during the thirteen months preceding the enactment of the Act there were only 68,263 men obtained. Moreover, at the time the Military Service Act was passed the rate of recruiting had dropped off to about 2,000 men per month, which number was being considerably exceeded by the casualties then occurring in the C.E.F.

COMPARISONS BY PROVINCES.

It is of interest to observe how the provinces compare in numbers of men made available. The gross total of 179,933 made available was furnished by the various provinces as follows:—

Quebec 55,814, Ontario 55,145, Saskatchewan 14,863, Manitoba 12,591, Nova Scotia 11,122, Alberta 9,871, British Columbia 9,717, New Brunswick 9,071, and Prince Edward Island 1,739. Stated in other terms there were furnished by the different provinces per one hundred Class 1 registrants: Manitoba 56, New Brunswick 54, British Columbia 53, Quebec 48, Ontario 44, Nova Scotia 43, Prince Edward Island 39, Alberta 35, Saskatchewan 33. Leaving out of consideration unapprehended Group III defaulters, the provinces stand in men made available as follows: Ontario 52,010, Quebec 37,920, Saskatchewan 14,349, Manitoba 12,281, Nova Scotia 9,911, Alberta 9,589, British Columbia 9,304, New Brunswick 8,699, Prince Edward Island 1,731. These figures in turn, mean that by excluding unapprehended Group III defaulters, the provinces made available for military service out of every one hundred Class 1 registrants: Manitoba 55, New Brunswick 51, British Columbia 51, Ontario 41, Nova Scotia 39, Prince Edward Island 38, Alberta 34, Quebec 33, Saskatchewan 32.

In all 27,631 men became Group III defaulters, that is disobeyed registrars' orders to report for duty, of whom 3,492 had been up to January 31, 1919, apprehended and placed on military strength. For every one hundred men ordered to report or voluntarily reporting under the Military Service Act, the following numbers in each province have disobeyed such orders: Quebec 41, Nova Scotia 17, British Columbia 10, Saskatchewan 10, New Brunswick 9, Ontario 9, Alberta 5, Manitoba 4, and Prince Edward Island 1.

TRIBUNALS' WORK.

Certain figures in the report relative to registrations and tribunal work are of interest. In all 522,899 men were registered, including 401,882 in Class I, 10,044 apprehended unregistered defaulters of Class I age and description, 78,901 in the 19-Class, that is all young men of nineteen years and some of twenty years, and 32,072 United States citizens registered under the British-American Convention—it being observed that in making men available for military service the 19-Class and American registrations were not drawn for compulsory service up to the time of the signing of the Armistice.

In all 395,162 claims for exemption were scheduled to the 1,387 local tribunals at a cost of \$1.25 per case, exemption being refused, subject to appeal, in 56,991 of such cases. Some 129,448 cases went to the 195 appeal tribunals at a cost of 29 cents per case, exemption being refused, subject to appeal, in 36,781 instances. Finally 42,300 cases were scheduled to the Central Appeal Judge—exclusive of cases scheduled where leave to appeal was eventually refused by the Central Appeal Judge—at a cost of \$5.55 per case, exemption being refused in 20,240 cases. Of the total cases scheduled to the Central Appeal Judge some sixty-six per cent came from the province of Quebec, exemption being refused by the Central Appeal Judge in fifty-eight per cent of the cases scheduled from that province.

Review operations constituted one of the most important services performed by registrars under the Military Service Act. These consisted of the examination of the file of every man who had been granted exemption with a subsequent questionnaire and possible appeal to an appeal tribunal or the Central Appeal Judge of those cases where exemptions seemed possibly not to be in the national interest; also of the examination by medical experts of the medical history sheets of each registrant in low category, and the ordering for re-examination of those whose categories seemed of doubtful correctness. In all 96,971 appeals were taken by registrars as a result of their review operations, such appeals resulting in 31,888 men being made available for military service. Moreover, 59,840 men were ordered for re-examination, no less than 25,340 of whom were placed as a result of such re-examination in available categories—17,224 in "A" and 8,206 in "B."

SAYS EXPENDITURES REASONABLE.

In view of the fact that as above stated, the country had been depleted of 437,387 men by the volunteer system, and that the activities of the Mil-

itary Service Act were confined to the expensive system of obtaining men from Class I alone, it would seem that expenditures under the Act by the Justice Department have been reasonably low, in all \$3,661,417.20 having been spent up to January 31, 1919 such amount being made up of—Registrars' organizations \$2,416,527.79, Head Office administration \$188,525.12, Advertising \$160,881.73, Printing and supplies \$129,604.85, Local tribunals \$495,099.22, Appeal tribunals \$35,857.21 and Central appeal court \$234,921.28.

Relative expenses in the different provinces may be judged from the statement that the cost per registrant—including all registrations varied as follows: New Brunswick \$4.88, Nova Scotia \$5.49, Ontario \$5.92, Saskatchewan \$5.98, Prince Edward Island \$6.20, Manitoba \$7.53, Quebec \$7.88, Alberta \$9.10 and British Columbia \$10.96. The per capita cost of the gross total of men made available under the Act has been: New Brunswick \$12.14, Nova Scotia \$15.65, Ontario \$17.18, Manitoba \$18.08, Prince Edward Island \$20.37, Quebec \$20.41, Saskatchewan \$23.50, British Columbia \$29.41 and Alberta \$37.73. This cost compares favourably with that of Great Britain, where the cost per man posted to H. M. Forces under the British Draft was about £4-14-7. Finally the per capita cost of the net total of men put in uniform was: New Brunswick \$15.10, Nova Scotia \$20.66, Manitoba \$31.30, Ontario \$21.50, Prince Edward Island \$26.56, Saskatchewan \$31.29, British Columbia \$35.88, Quebec \$40.78 and Alberta \$42.44.

PRESENT FINANCIAL SITUATION IN GREECE

War had far from disastrous effect on her finances says report.

In a recent issue of the *Economiste Europeen* a few figures are given concerning the present financial situation in Greece. It appears that the war has been far from having a disastrous effect. In 1917, instead of a predicted deficit of 165,000,000 drachmas, the budget showed a surplus of 14,000,000. This difference is largely accounted for by the fact that the construction of certain public works was discontinued, and the Treasury was able to profit by this circumstance to improve the situation. In 1918, in spite of a considerable increase in the salaries paid to Government employees, the surplus has risen to 168,000,000 drachmas. For 1919 there will probably be a deficit of 100,000,000, which will be covered by new taxes.

During the last fiscal year a total of 92,000,000 drachmas, as compared with 66,000,000 in 1917, has been applied to the national debt. (The normal value of the drachma is \$0.193.)—*British Board of Trade Journal.*

MILLERS ONLY NOW REQUIRE LICENSES.

The Canada Food Board in the last few days has been receiving a large number of applications from every province in the Dominion for the renewal of licenses. Those from grocers and general retailers whose licenses expired at the end of last month have been most numerous. The Board, of which only a skeleton staff remains at Ottawa for the winding up of the work, desires to repeat and re-emphasize the announcement made some months ago that no food dealers in Canada, with the sole exception of millers, now require licenses. Arrangements are being made to refund as soon as possible the renewal fees being sent in.

LARGE INCREASE IN APPLICATIONS FOR LAND GRANTS

Alberta now showing greatest activity and Edmonton office of Soldiers Settlement has approved 1,134 applications

DISTRICT OFFICE FIGURES.

The following statement has been issued by the Soldier Settlement Board: There has been a large increase in the past few weeks in the number of applications for the benefits of the soldier land settlement provisions. A statistical report handed out by the Soldier Settlement Board shows that since the new loan provisions have gone into effect 6,922 applications have been approved by the qualification committees in the whole of the Dominion. The total number of applications received in all the provinces up till the 3rd of May is 9,626.

Alberta shows the greatest activity. The Edmonton office has approved 1,134 applications and the Calgary office 767. Manitoba reports 1,536 applications approved, while Saskatchewan has a total of 1,264, of which 1,101 were reported by the Regina office, 361 Saskatoon and 127 by Prince Albert. British Columbia reports 949 approvals. Ontario 426; Quebec 114; New Brunswick 180; Nova Scotia 114; Prince Edward Island 104.

Herewith the number of applications received at the various district offices of the Board: British Columbia, Vancouver 1,634; an office has been opened at Victoria but the returns from there are not in. Alberta, Edmonton 1,380, Calgary 881; Saskatchewan, Regina 1,372, Saskatoon 394, Prince Albert 248; Manitoba, Winnipeg 1,823; Ontario, Toronto, 918; Quebec, Montreal, 202; New Brunswick, St. John, 290; Nova Scotia, Halifax, 343; Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, 141.

The report also shows the numbers recommended for training, both instructional and practical. In British Columbia 95; Alberta 68; Saskatchewan 50; Manitoba 152; Ontario 72; Quebec 36; New Brunswick 10; Nova Scotia 20; Prince Edward Island 4. The number actually taking training is 143.

Although these figures are large and indicate the successful outcome of the Soldier Settlement Board's plans, it should be remembered that several of the offices have only recently been opened and operations begun. There has hardly been time in some sections to perfect local organizations, but an effort is being made to grapple with the situation and locate as many as possible of returned soldiers on farms this year. Only those who have had sufficient experience to undertake farming operations at once are passed as qualified by the Soldier Settlement Board Qualification Committees. A great many others are recommended to take the three months training course at training centres.