

THE SPECULATOR AND WESTERN LANDS

Prairie Provinces Can Provide Lands For Soldiers If They Desire To

Ottawa, Dec. 7.—Special to the Sun.—The land speculator is unpopular these days. Everyone declares that he should go, and the Provincial Legislatures have now a royal chance to put him out of business. The new Dominion land settlement policy as announced by the Hon. J. A. Calder, will enable them to do so. Considerable respecting it has appeared in print, but it is doubtful whether the public has yet realized how vitally, if carried out, it will affect the development of Western Canada.

In the prairie provinces there are probably over 20,000,000 acres of land held by speculators. That they have seriously retarded the development of the country is well known, nor has taxation loosened their grip very much. But they must now either cultivate or sell the land—that is if the prairie provinces set up the machinery which the Dominion Government is willing to finance. Land must be made available for the returning soldiers and new settlers. There is plenty of it in the settled districts, and this the speculator must either work, sell at a reasonable price, or it will become subject to expropriation proceedings. (Until very recently the Dominion Government considered that it had done its duty to settlers if it induced them to come to the country with the prospect of getting a homestead. But times have changed. Homesteads are now much more difficult to get. There is still lots of land within easy reach of the railways, but it must be bought. This new policy will enable settlers to buy it on easy terms, for the Dominion Government will advance the necessary money.

To Promote Settlement.

In short, the credit of Canada, which hitherto in the West has been used pretty much to advance the interests of the C.N.R. and G.T.F., will be applied to promote the work of settlement. That is, the Dominion Government is to place at the disposal of the Provincial Governments the money by which lands held by speculators, abandoned farms, etc., may be acquired, at a price to be agreed upon, or fixed as a result of expropriation proceedings. It is then proposed that these lands shall be sold by the Provincial Governments on long term payments, the cash payment being equal to 20 per cent.

While the Dominion Government provides the money to make the scheme possible, the Provincial Governments must provide the machinery that will put the scheme into effect, otherwise it cannot be worked. This done, no argument is required to demonstrate how beneficial the results will be.

In this connection a few figures relating to land settlement in the Prairie Provinces will be of interest. In these three provinces the surveyed area is 201,854,000 acres, divided as follows: Manitoba, 35,972,000; Saskatchewan, 79,925,471; and Alberta, 86,653,919. The unsurveyed area is 284,088,305 acres, of which 125,200,000 acres are in Manitoba and 82,162,000 in Saskatchewan.

Who Owns the Land.

The alienated lands amount to 165,787,610 acres, of which 72,126,535 are in Saskatchewan, 67,251,409 in Alberta and 26,409,666 acres are in Manitoba. Of these lands the largest unoccupied and uncultivated acreage is found in Saskatchewan.

Out of these 165,000,000 acres, 58,657,500 acres, or a little more than one-third, have been granted as homesteads. Of this 57,127,800 acres, or a little over one-half, lie within Saskatchewan. Alberta comes next with 18,106,000 acres, while Manitoba follows with 8,422,000 acres. Saskatchewan is thus preeminently the homesteading province.

Since 1868, 7,345,710 acres have been granted in pre-emptions, of which 4,892,140 acres lie within Saskatchewan and 2,448,570 within Alberta.

The Hudson's Bay grants amount to 6,397,200 acres, divided as follows: Saskatchewan 3,090,100 acres, Alberta 2,094,800 and Manitoba 1,213,300 acres. Irrigation sales total 1,057,601 acres, of which 980,680 acres are in Alberta and 76,921, in Saskatchewan.

The Indian reserves represent 2,933,198 acres, divided as follows: Manitoba, 433,860; Saskatchewan, 1,131,122; and Alberta, 1,368,156.

The Forest Reserve acreage is very large, 21,264,916 acres. Alberta has 12,462,816 acres; Saskatchewan 6,185,700; Manitoba 2,606,400.

The Parks are represented by 4,350,584, all in Alberta.

The School Lands' acreage is 9,010,600 in which the provinces share as follows: Manitoba 1,555,400; Saskatchewan 800 acres.

The lands granted to railways amount to no less than 31,804,074, 3,566,997 acres; Saskatchewan, 15,117,063; Alberta 13,120,014.

The lands described as Miscellaneous total 22,657,977 acres, of which 7,835,409 are in Manitoba, 8,033,429 in Saskatchewan, and 6,789,139 are in Alberta.

Great Heritage of Wealth.

That the lands constitute a great

heritage of wealth is to be seen from the money received and receivable from the acreage already sold.

From pre-emptions sold \$5,419,000 have been received, and there are \$15,785,000 outstanding. None of this land lies in Manitoba. In Saskatchewan \$3,619,235 have been received and there are 10,400,000 outstanding.

The sum of \$2,565,400 has been received from the sale of purchased homesteads, all in Saskatchewan and Alberta, \$1,703,600 being from the former province. The outstanding figures are \$904,900.

The money received from irrigation sales in Alberta is \$986,367, and in Saskatchewan \$99,756. There are still \$34,000 outstanding.

The School Lands' endowment consists of 9,010,594 acres, of which 2,403,706 acres have been sold. The amount received is \$17,829,982; the amount outstanding is \$14,016,175.

Valued at only \$3 an acre, the 31,804,074 acres granted to railways represents a valuation of \$95,000,000.

The Price of Wheat.

The price of wheat for 1915 is one of the big problems confronting the Dominion Government. The American Government having guaranteed the price of at least \$2.25, the question arises—what is the Canadian grain grower to get? If his price is fixed by world competition, possibly it may be 50 or 60 cents a bushel below that received by the American. This would be a bad blow to the country. On the other hand, could this country of 8,000,000 afford to pay much more for wheat than it is worth, especially if the crop were a heavy one? Very probably the solution of this problem will be found through conference with the Allied Governments at which the Canadian Council of Agriculture will have representation.

FIFTEEN SOLDIERS

(Continued from Page 4.)

was accorded the returned soldiers on Friday afternoon, there was no cheer raised. None seemed to have the hardihood to lead off, otherwise there is no doubt whatever what the response would be.

The sight of a man in khaki stepping off the train was the signal for a rush from one end of the platform to another. But when the crowd got there, it did not seem to know what to do. Unless the soldier boy was personally well known to someone in the immediate neighborhood, it looked as if it was too presumptuous for anybody in the crowd to extend the glad hand. Despite all this, there was no mistaking the glad welcome, if silent, that was extended in spirit to the returning heroes.

Altogether, fifteen men returned to their homes in Brandon on Friday. In all cases, cars were provided by the Returned Soldiers Association to carry them to their homes. Now and then, a returned soldier would slip the crowd and away to his own fire-side before any of the officials had time to say "Jack Robinson."

The soldier boys did seem glad to be shaken by the hand when coming back to their old home town. It gave them the chance to say: "I am right glad to be back," and the smile that invariably accompanied the remark put the hall mark on its sincerity.

It was the women that knew how best to show their joy at the return of a loved one. One little lady literally danced around her newly found soldier-husband. With her face beaming with joy she would indiscriminately poke in the ribs any male or female that was standing near, and pointing to the man in khaki, confidentially impart the intelligence: "I have got him home at last."

Among the lads who returned on Friday were T. Stenhouse, who, after a short stay here, will go to Boissevain where his wife and five children now reside; Private A. Mumford, whose wife and four children reside at 354 Fifth street; Lance-Corporal Hunt, whose wife and child live at their home on Princess avenue East; Sgt. F. Roberts, of the Chums Battalion, whose wife and child live at No. 18 Hardware Block; Private W. H. Lanktree, formerly of the C.P.R. freight office; Sgt. Jack Hughes, Chums Battalion, formerly employed at Christie's store; Pte. W. F. Fisher, who went to the home of Mr. Terry, 223 Russell street; Pte. J. A. Williams, whose mother resides at the Orchard Block; Pte. E. Blake, of the 79th Battalion, whose wife resides at 650 Thirteenth street; Pte. J. Gibbs, of the Eighth Battalion, wife and five children, 1007 Twelfth street; Pte. R. J. Thompson, 203rd Battalion, formerly in the employ of Henderson & Matheson; Pte. W. Waugh, 181st Battalion; Pte. Wilson, whose wife and three children reside at 150 Fifth street.

Great importance is attached to this gathering as it will be the first large convention of farmers since the Canadian Council of Agriculture formulated its new policies last week.

Coinciding with the Grain Growers' convention, the Manitoba Livestock Association will meet.



ROBIN CARLYLE MORLAND.

Private Robin Carlyle Morland, King's Liverpool Regiment, T.F., killed in action at Hendecourt, France, on the 1st September, 1918, 26 years.

Mr. Morland joined the C. P. R. Company on the 15th April, 1907, and served with them until the inauguration of the King's Liverpool Regiment, on the 8th February, 1916, and was very shortly afterwards drafted overseas. He was three times mentioned in despatches, being subsequently awarded the Military Medal for such gallantry. His Platoon Officer writing about his death says "he was very popular with all ranks, proving himself a thorough soldier and dying as he had lived a true hero."



LT. J. S. FLANAGAN.

Second Lt. J. S. Flanagan, who died on August 22nd, joined the Passenger Dept. Canadian Pacific Railway in 1912. He enlisted in Dec., 1914, in the London Irish Rifles, received his commission in Nov., 1915, in the 3rd County of London Regt., and had seen much service and fighting at the Front. Early in the morning of Aug. 22 he was shot through the lungs whilst leading his men but continued to carry on until he was satisfied that everything was going well. He then started to walk back to the dressing station but later had to be picked up by stretcher bearers and died a few hours later. His chaplain writes, "He was one of the bravest men I have ever met."

RUSSIANS PLEAD FOR PROTECTION BY ENTENTE ALLIES

Bolsheviki Invade Baltic Provinces Burning and Killing As They Advance

SEAPORTS ARE FILLED

With Fugitives Waiting For Allied and Neutral Warships To Protect Them

London, Dec. 7.—The Countess of Livonia, Esthonia, and Courland have sent an appeal to the Allied and neutral governments, urging intervention in the Baltic provinces against invasion of the Russian Bolsheviki forces, according to a telegram from Copenhagen. The Bolsheviki, who have invaded part of the provinces, are killing and burning as they advance. Various ports of the provinces are filled with fugitives, in anticipation of the arrival of Allied and neutral warships to protect them.

LAND PROPOSALS TO BE DISCUSSED IN BRANDON MEETINGS

Importance Attached to Annual Convention of Grain Growers Here on Jan. 8.

Winnipeg, Dec. 4.—What Manitoba farmers think of the new Agrarian party platform will be voiced at the annual meeting of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association to be held at Brandon the week of Jan. 8th, according to an announcement at the parliament buildings.

Great importance is attached to this gathering as it will be the first large convention of farmers since the Canadian Council of Agriculture formulated its new policies last week.

Coinciding with the Grain Growers' convention, the Manitoba Livestock Association will meet.

SPANISH MINISTRY RESIGNS OFFICE

Madrid, Dec. 4.—The Spanish ministry resigned on Tuesday.

The Reformist party has begun the holding of meetings to promote its program of constitutional reform. The measures demanded by the party include the following:

Any bill rejected by the crown to become a law without further reference to the crown if the parliament approves the measure; the royal prerogatives to be exercised under responsibility to the ministers; the entire Senate to be chosen by the electors; every province which demands autonomy and is in a position to fulfill the necessary conditions to be conceded its demand; military service to be universal and obligatory, with any person exempted paying during the term of service required a tax proportionate to his income; state schools and technical education to be largely increased.

PLANNING TO MAKE IT EASY FOR SOLDIERS TO GET BACK INTO CIVIL LIFE

Ottawa, Dec. 4.—The decks were cleared for the discussion of demobilization and employment of returned soldiers at the conference between the secretaries of the Provincial Returned Soldiers' Commissions and the officials of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment when H. J. Daly, director of repatriation and employment committee, outlined the general scheme of co-ordination prepared by his committee.

The first thing to be done, Mr. Daly pointed out, was to transfer their energies in the matter of finding employment for the returned man to the new chain of employment offices, under provincial control, but Dominion direction and co-ordination, which is being established throughout the Dominion. He explained that it was not desired to eliminate any body of workers, but simply to concentrate their energies so as to produce the best results, without duplication. In the matter of employment, he pointed out, the work could only be achieved through a chain of employment offices administered only on one principal scheme of cohesion. To this the conference assented unanimously.

SELL FOOD AT COST.

Santiago, Chile, Dec. 4.—The government has submitted to Congress a bill authorizing the establishment of government markets to sell food at cost in an effort to solve the food problem. The government move is an outgrowth of the recent food riots in Santiago and other cities.

FIRE WOMEN WORKERS WANT TO SEE LLOYD GEORGE

London, Dec. 4.—Women munition workers, who had been receiving high pay and who have been discharged, marched to Downing street Tuesday and demanded to see Premier Lloyd George.

SKATER DROWNED FRIENDS HELPLESS

Fell Through Thin Ice and Would-be Rescuers Could Not Get Near Him

Regina, Sask. Dec. 4.—While friends stood watching, unable to render assistance, J. R. Sutherland was drowned at Soda Lake on Wednesday last. Word of the accident reached the police headquarters of the province here.

Sutherland, who was about 24 years of age, went skating on Soda Lake, South of Maitland, on Wednesday. After donning his skates he stood talking at the shore to some friends for a short while then skated away toward the centre of the lake. He was seen to fall, and knowing that the ice had broken, two of the men on shore secured poles and planks and attempted a rescue. They were able to get within thirty feet of the drowning man, but were unable to render any assistance.

BAVARIAN PREMIER TO SUCCEED DR. SOLF

London, Dec. 7.—Kurt Elster, the Bavarian Premier, will probably succeed Dr. W. S. Solf as German Foreign Minister. Negotiations on the subject are now proceeding between Berlin and Munich, according to the Cologne Gazette.

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE SCHOOLS HALF FILLED

Parents Will Not Send Kiddies Though the Schools Are Open

Portage la Prairie, Dec. 4.—The parents having children attending the public schools in this city are not going to permit them to resume their studies until such time as the Spanish influenza epidemic is stamped out, was evidenced Monday, when, after an enforced seven weeks' holiday, due to the "Flu" the public schools and Collegiate re-opened with about one half

CROWN PRINCE SAYS THAT HE HAS NOT RENOUNCED RIGHTS

Has Not Relinquished Hope Of Ascending German Throne, is Told Interviewer

Gosterland, Holland, Dec. 4.—"I have not renounced anything and I have not signed any document whatever," former German Crown Prince declared to the correspondent.

"I was convinced early in October, 1914," the former Crown Prince said to his interviewer, "that we had lost the war. I considered our position hopeless after the battle of the Marne, which we should not have lost if the chiefs of our general staff had not suffered a case of nerves."

"I tried to persuade the general staff to seek peace then, even at a great sacrifice, going so far as to give up Alsace-Lorraine. But I was told to mind my own business and confine my activities to commanding my armies. I have proof of this."

Prince August William, the former Emperor's fourth son, however, and his wife, are going to Argentina as soon as possible, the message adds.

U-BOAT ATTEMPTED TO BLOW UP TAY BRIDGE

London, Dec. 4.—The Dundee Advertiser publishes details of how an attempt of submarines to blow up the Tay Bridge in Scotland, was frustrated. An airman observed a large submarine lying on the sandy bottom of the river near Dundee. Numerous

STEALING C. P. R. FREIGHT PROVED UNPROFITABLE

Regina, Sask., Dec. 4.—Stealing freight from the C.P.R. proved expensive to Frederick Brown, brakeman, J. McLelland, Assiniboia, and Albert Percy Stuart, Yellow Grass, who have been found guilty before Justices of the Peace J. B. Smith and Wilfred mine-sweepers and destroyers were

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soon in the vicinity. The wire ropes of the sweepers struck their mark and a depth charge was immediately lowered. Then a patrol boat dropped a very heavy charge. Divers afterwards found 13 of the crew of the wreck badly mangled.

CHILD BURNED TO DEATH

Owen Sound, Dec. 7.—From the effects of burns, Garvin Ewart Becker, son of Mrs. Herman Becker, 148 Fifth street east, is dead. How the accident happened is not known, as the child, who was only four years old, was alone in the room, but it is surmised that he was playing around the stove and tried to light some paper, setting fire to his night clothes, which were all ablaze when his screams brought help. It is just three months since his father was killed in action in France.

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SITUATIONS VACANT

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FARM LANDS

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WANTED TO HEAR FROM OWNER of good farm for sale. State cash price, full description. D. F. Bush, Minneapolis, Minn. 24-11-15-29-5-23

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