

DOMINION LOAN FOR HOUSING SCHEME.

The Government has created a fund of \$25,000,000, which will be available by way of loan to the several provincial governments in Canada in connection with the carrying out of programmes for better housing through municipalities or otherwise.

In the Order in Council authorizing the transaction," a statement says, "the Minister of Finance points out that at the conference recently held at Ottawa between the premiers and other members of the governments of the several provinces and representatives of the Dominion Government one of the most important subjects of discussion was that of creating better housing conditions for the industrial population of our large centres. The minister points out that, owing to the practical cessation of building operations during the war, there is at present a great scarcity of housing accommodation in most of our cities, and this condition will become intensified with the return of our soldiers from overseas and their re-establishment with their families in civil life and occupation.

DETAILS OF HOUSING SCHEME.

The following recommendations were made by the Minister of Finance:—

"In view of the national importance of the matter of better housing which touches vitally the health, morals and general well-being of the entire community and its relation to the welfare of returned soldiers and their families, together with the fact that the carrying out of such a policy

on a substantial scale by provincial governments would afford considerable employment during the period of reconstruction and readjustment of industry following the war, the minister made the following recommendations:

1. That the Minister of Finance be authorized, under the provisions of the War Measures Act, upon request from the government of any province of Canada to make loans to such government for the purpose mentioned.

2. That the aggregate amount to be loaned to all provinces shall not exceed \$25,000,000, and the amount of loan to any one province shall not exceed the proportion of the said \$25,000,000, which the population of the said province bears to the total population of Canada.

3. That the loans made may be for a period not exceeding 20 years with the right of any province to pay off the whole or any part of the principal of the loan at any time during the said term.

4. That interest at the rate of five per cent per annum payable half yearly, shall be charged upon the advances from the dates thereof respectively.

5. The Minister of Finance may accept bonds, debentures or such other form of security as he may approve evidencing the indebtedness of any provincial government for loans made to it.

6. Advances are to be made from the war appropriation.

7. Advances may be made as soon as a general scheme of housing shall have been agreed upon between the government of the province applying for the loan hereunder.

TRAFFIC RETURNS

Canadian Pacific Railway

Year to date	1916	1917	1918	Increase
Nov. 30.....	\$124,632,000	\$136,010,000	\$138,420,000	\$2,410,000
Week ending	1916	1917	1918	Increase
Dec. 7.....	3,139,000	3,289,000	3,480,000	191,000
Dec. 14.....	3,106,000	2,908,000	3,780,000	872,000

Grand Trunk Railway

Year to date	1916	1917	1918	Increase
Nov. 30.....	54,980,385	53,960,414	64,578,318	10,617,904
Week ending	1916	1917	1918	Increase
Dec. 7.....	1,151,306	861,442	1,379,502	518,060
Dec. 14.....	728,633	1,385,902	657,249

Canadian Northern Railway

Year to date	1916	1917	1918	Increase
Nov. 30.....	34,219,500	38,204,800	42,169,900	3,965,100
Week ending	1916	1917	1918	Increase
Dec.	17,900	916,000	1,133,100	217,100
Dec. 14.....	892,600	753,800	1,067,000	313,200

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CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED	(\$5 = £1.)	\$156,521,000
CAPITAL PAID UP		25,043,360
RESERVE FUND		20,000,000
DEPOSITS, &c.	(December, 1917)	873,489,725
ADVANCES, &c.	do.	307,333,545

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