

problem of re-establishing the soldier in civil life. The personnel of the board is exciting considerable criticism. The appointment of C. F. Roland, late commissioner of the Winnipeg Industrial Bureau and manager of the Winnipeg Telegram, seems to many a gross example of patronage and an unhappy choice. One of the chief difficulties will be to find land suitable for soldiers' settlement as the veterans have openly expressed themselves unwilling to go on the out-lying homesteads which are now the only government free lands available. There are eight hundred thousand acres of land in the Goose Lake district now held by the C.N.R., which it is expected will fall into the hands of the Government within a few months. These sections are more or less compact, but unfortunately are only the relics of a large land grant from which the best quarters have been culled. There is also talk of taking the Indian Reserves but there are serious difficulties in this connection. Inevitably there are, and will be, many patriotic offers on the part of large land corporations and profiteering speculators to turn over their holdings to the government at a price, but the price will often be very high. At least two of the commission are understood to be in favor of the radical expropriation of vacant lands near the railways and it is to be hoped that they will encourage the government to enact legislation to this end. We have got to get as many as possible of our returning army back on the land at once, and the interests of private individuals however precious, must not be allowed to stand in the way. What really is wanted at once is Federal Legislation imposing a graduated special land tax as in New Zealand, which would force large holders of land to sell at once.

Work for the Partly Incapacitated

Besides the fit soldiers who can be put on the land or into industries, there will be a considerable element of men who are incapacitated from giving the

full services of a healthy worker and will be fit only for lighter tasks. Lt.-Col. Hendrie, of Hamilton, has come forward with a proposal that legislation should be passed compelling every industrial employer in the country to keep on his pay-roll a certain proportion of these incapacitated men as messengers and elevator men or employed in light duties.

Half of the problem of re-establishment is bound up with the alien question in all our Canadian cities. There are large numbers of aliens who have been drawn into urban and industrial pursuits of whom the large majority were originally peasants trained to the land, and quite unfitted for urban civilization. There should be set on foot a scheme for getting these aliens back on the land so that the places they occupy in urban life could be free for the returning soldiers.

The new department has a very heavy task before it and its chiefs should take special care in selecting their staff. What is wanted are men with a wide knowledge of rural problems, sociology and general economics, who can bring intellectual skill and psychological insight to their task. They should give close attention to the possibility of community settlements and the encouragements of co-operation in the soldier colonies. If they attempt to tackle the problem on haphazard individualist lines they will assuredly meet with failure, and if they try to make the re-establishment of our soldiers an excuse for allowing speculators to unload their lands on the public they will meet with a torrent of universal indignation.

WHEAT AT \$2.21 PER BUSHEL

The Board of Grain Supervisors for Canada last Thursday decided to set the price of wheat for the crop of 1918 at \$2.21 per bushel, which is the same as that paid last year. The following statement was issued by Dr. Robert Magill, chairman, and A. R. Macdonald, secretary, of the board:—

"The board of grain supervisors for Canada are of the opinion that the present price of Canadian western wheat, namely \$2.21 per bushel for No. 1 northern wheat, Fort William and Port Arthur, is a reasonable price for wheat of the crop of 1918. In reaching this conclusion the board have given full consideration to the necessity of stimulating the production of wheat; to the increased cost of production, and to the relative prices of coarse grains which have not been fixed during the current year, either in Canada or in the United States.

"The board are also of the opinion that this price should be guaranteed, that the guarantee should be given immediately and that, for any reason, such a guarantee cannot be given, the price stated and all regulations connected therewith should and must be reconsidered and revised."

R. McKenzie, secretary of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, expressing an opinion about the price fixed for the current year, said:—

"I think it is right under the circumstances; \$2.21 is a high enough price. That is to say, it pays the farmers very well and it is as much as the Canadian people and their allies can afford to pay."

Our Ottawa Letter

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hours of the day—the evening hours—if they commenced earlier in the morning and in the morning hour would really be lost because of the dew. They included Dr. Michael Clark, of Red Deer, who, speaking with his customary frankness, told the minister of trade and commerce that while he admired his tenacity he did not think much of his political sagacity. There was a demand from the opposition benches by D. D. MacKenzie for statements by the minister of labor and the minister of agriculture as to the general attitude of labor and the farmers, but the ministers did not respond to the invitation to express an opinion. Generally speaking the representatives of city constituencies, both from the a curious breaking of the party lines, but the government would undoubtedly have had a big majority. For this reason no doubt it was wisely avoided by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, while the "ginger" group did not have sufficient courage to divide the house.

Undoubtedly the bill would have been in danger but for the circumstance that the United States having adopted Daylight Saving, it was recognized by the majority of members that it is practically necessary for Canada to do likewise.

Mr. Crerar's First Speech

The cost to the country of the Canada food board and the action so far taken by the government looking to increased production up to the present time was debated recently, on a motion by Sir Wilfrid Laurier for the production of information in regard to the or West and East, were in favor of the bill. A division would have resulted in organization of the board. He said that \$200,000 was being paid for salaries alone and that this was altogether too much for what had been accomplished.

Sir Geo. Foster and Hon. T. A. Crerar both made speeches in defence of the action taken by the government. Mr. Crerar, who made a good impression on the house in his first speech of any length in the house, said that it was necessary to spend money on salaries to effectively carry on the work of the board. Canadians he said had not been used to regulation of food supplies and the work being done was largely experimental. What was aimed at was to exercise control by way of licensing and to secure the co-operation of the people. Replying to a question as to the desirability of conscripting labor, Mr. Crerar said: "You can conscript men to put them in the ranks but to conscript men to work on the farm would be a doubtful experiment."

Eliminate the Tariff

Dr. Michael Clark, in a characteristic speech warmly advocated the removal of the duties on food-stuffs and agricultural implements. He could not understand why the government did not take this action at a time of food

stringency. "Why not sweep all duties off food supplies as Germany did at the beginning of the war?" he asked.

On the other hand W. F. Cockshutt entered an emphatic objection to any interference with the tariff. It was understood in his part of the country he said that the tariff was not to be touched until the end of the war. He advised the Union government not to do anything so foolish as to interfere with the tariff.

SITUATION IN QUEBEC

The riots in Quebec city were finally quelled last Thursday night, but not until five people had been shot, three of whom were killed. The city was finally under the complete control of the Military authorities, which are now empowered to deal summarily with any revolts against the enforcement of the Military Service Act which may occur in future. The police finally arrested seven men who are said to have been the ringleaders in the entire affair. In the House of Commons on Friday last when the debate upon the Quebec riots took place, Sir Wilfrid Laurier startled his hearers somewhat by charging that the disturbance in Quebec city did not represent the attitude of anything like the majority of the people of that city, and that the whole trouble had been engineered and provoked by a secret organization.

NOT PROFITEERS

Declaring that they were not profiteers, and that \$2.20 per bushel is a sufficiently high price for wheat, the farmers of 23 states meeting at Washington last week went on record as opposed to the proposal of Congress to fix the price of wheat at \$2.50 per bushel. In favoring the lower figure the farmers said:—

"Wheat at \$2.50 means flour will cost \$3 a barrel more and that will make bread prohibitive for thousands next winter. We can make a fair profit at the lower price."

The whole question of price-fixing for the crop of 1918 is still before Congress, but will be settled this week in all probability.

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