

Loan Commissioner, Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

Special legislation has been enacted to apply to returned soldiers, whereby instructional depots and farm colonies may be established, loans advanced, stock provided and co-operative arrangements effected for the purchase and sale of goods, produce, etc., to assist the returned soldier on his road to successful settlement. Subsequent to a course at a training depot, during which wages for work done are paid, or as soon as the soldier is sufficiently competent to go upon a farm and work for himself, 100 acres of land, with 10 acres cleared thereon, will be allotted to him. The necessary machinery and farm tools and such stock as may be determined upon to the value of \$500 will be supplied. Such advance will be repayable in twenty years at 6 p.c., but no payment either on principal or interest will be required until after the expiration of three years. After five years' residence to date from the acceptance of the application, the soldier may, provided he has 20 acres cleared—10 acres in addition to what is done by the Crown—and a house 16 feet x 20 feet erected, secure a patent from the Crown.¹

In British Columbia there are large areas of free grant land. Any British subject being the head of a family, a widow, a femme sole who is over eighteen years of age and self-supporting, a woman deserted by her husband, a woman whose husband has not contributed to her support for two years, a bachelor over eighteen years, or any alien on his making a declaration of his intention to become a British subject, may pre-empt free 160 acres of the unoccupied and unreserved Crown lands, not being an Indian settlement. The fees payable include \$2 for recording, \$2 for certificate of improvement and \$10 for the Crown grant. Of the total area of the province 196,674,609 acres are at the disposal of the Crown through the Provincial Government. Of this area 180,368,624 acres are unsurveyed and unencumbered Crown lands, 13,908,007 acres are reserved for various purposes and 2,397,978 acres have been surveyed for pre-emption by settlers.

By the Soldiers' Land Act of 1918, provision is made for free grants of land to returned soldiers, free from taxation for five years and subject only to reasonable residence and improvement duties. This Act provides also for the conveyance to the Dominion Government free of cost, but subject to reasonable residence and improvements, of suitable lands for the settlement thereon of British Columbia soldiers by the Soldier Settlement Board appointed by the Dominion Government. The Lands Department has already thrown open one block of land for settlement by returned soldiers only, and is examining as rapidly as possible other areas in various sections of the province to determine their suitability for the same purpose.

¹ Further particulars may be obtained on application to the Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, Ont.