

Branch, and (3) a Home Branch. The Agricultural Branch undertakes the selection of soldiers, qualified by military service, farming experience, physical fitness, character and intelligence, to become successful farmers. The Lands and Loans Branch assists in the selection of lands for applicants approved by the Agricultural Branch. The value of the land is ascertained by appraisers, and to reduce legal costs a legal branch has been established in each district office of the Board. The Home Branch is composed of trained women at various centres to act as supervisors and advisers in domestic economy. From the date of its institution on February 1, 1918, to March 21, 1920, the Soldier Settlement Board received 50,423 applications for loans. Of these, 36,830 have been accepted as qualified, and 15,234 are actually on the land with loans approved. Of these last, 9,981 have settled on purchased lands, 2,779 have received advances on land already owned and 2,564 on Dominion Soldiers' Grants; 3,947 more have settled on Soldiers' Grants without receiving advances, making a total of 19,181 who have settled on land under the Act. Of the 15,234 receiving loans, 12,800 have settled in the four western provinces, Alberta leading with 4,603 settlers. The operations of the Board entail upon the Dominion a financial commitment of \$58,741,605, of which about \$42,000,000 has been disbursed. Of the total commitment, \$32,173,776 are for loans against purchased lands, \$1,834,157 to remove encumbrances, \$6,502,435 for permanent improvements and \$18,348,701 for stock and equipment. Loans have been advanced to the full value of the land purchased in 801 cases. Up to the date mentioned, 64 settlers have paid back the full amount of their loans. The expenditure connected with training has amounted to \$82,457, and at present (March, 1920,) 674 ex-soldiers are in training. Out of the sum advanced, \$4,777,419 has been invested in implements, \$273,487 in improvements, \$5,747,109 in live stock, while \$1,319,406 has been invested by the soldier himself in second hand equipment not purchased through the Board. The saving to the settler thus far in the cost of implements through the arrangements with manufacturers and agents is estimated at \$403,768. The total number of employees of the Board is 1,321, of whom 962, including 876 returned soldiers, are males.

War Service Gratuities.—The amount of war service gratuities payable to members of the Canadian naval and land forces who served during the war has aroused a great deal of public discussion, and has been the subject of various Orders in Council, dated December 21, 1918, February 8, June 23 and December 1, 1919. As settled by the last named Order (P.C. 2389) the regulations provided for the payment to soldiers who had served overseas of gratuities equivalent to pay and allowances for 183 days, 153 days, 122 days and 92 days according as total service was for three years, two years, one year or under one year and for pay and allowances to soldiers who had served in Canada only for 92 days, 61 days and 31 days according as service was for three years, two years or one year, no payee to receive less than \$100 per month, if married, or less than \$70 per month, if single. Various proposals, some of them involving much larger