

## THE SOLDIER SETTLEMENT BOARD.

**The Soldier Settlement Board.**—The Soldier Settlement Board was organized under the authority of the Soldier Settlement Act, 1917, (7-8 Geo. V, c. 21), and empowered to assist eligible returned soldiers to settle upon the land. By the Soldier Settlement Act, 1919, (9-10 Geo. V, c. 71), the scope of the work was extended and the Board was authorized to purchase for returned men agricultural lands in any province. The earlier proceedings of the Soldier Settlement Board have been described on pages 29-35 of the Year Book for 1920, to which the reader is referred.

The soldier settlers who had taken up land under the Soldier Settlement Board with money borrowed from the Government, not being well established, suffered even more than other agriculturists from the great decline in agricultural prices indicated by the table on page 272 and its accompanying diagram. Consequently, the Soldier Settlement Act of 1919 was amended by chapter 46 of the statutes of 1922.

While the Act of 1919 and its amendments of 1920 called for the repayment of stock and equipment loans on unimproved property in 6 years and on improved property in 4 years, and of loans for land purchase, removal of encumbrances and permanent improvements in 25 years, the recent amendments make all loans for whatever purpose run for 25 years. Settlers who were on the land prior to October 1, 1921, will have all their indebtedness to the Board up to April 1, 1922, consolidated into one loan, and interest will be added to October 1, 1922. All such settlers have been given an exemption of interest for periods of from two to four years from October 1, 1922, depending on the year they were established. Those settled before October 1, 1919, will receive four years' exemption, that is, to October 1, 1926. During the interest exemption period repayments will be on principal only, amounting each standard date to one twenty-fifth of the consolidated indebtedness. After this period, interest and principal are amortized and are repayable in equal annual instalments. Three years' interest exemption is granted to the 1920 settler and two years' to the 1921 settler.

Since the compilation of the statistics given on page 31 of the 1920 Year Book, a considerable number of loans have been made. Up to Mar. 31, 1922, 63,323 returned men had applied to the Board for loans and 45,180 had been accepted as qualified. Loans had been granted to 21,394 applicants, distributed by provinces as follows:

	Number of Loans.	Amount in \$
Prince Edward Island.....	336	924,438
Nova Scotia.....	400	1,365,569
New Brunswick.....	568	1,757,388
Quebec.....	416	2,092,482
Ontario.....	1,628	7,001,765
Manitoba.....	3,378	14,495,488
Saskatchewan.....	5,336	21,586,288
Alberta.....	6,260	25,580,812
British Columbia.....	3,072	13,724,767
Canada.....	21,394	88,528,997