

3. Those to whom the Board was committed by reason of the fact that they had been recommended for training, or otherwise had an equitable claim to be dealt with, but no new applicants to be accepted for training or qualification.

Moneys have been returned to the Treasury on account of loans for settlement amounting to \$19,399,800. These moneys include initial payments and repayments of principal and interest. Seven hundred and twenty-seven soldier settlers have repaid their loans in full, 336 discontinuing farming and 391 remaining on the land.

The abandonments number 21 p.c. of those receiving loans. The Board has disposed of a number of these abandoned farms, leaving 13·8 p.c. still to be disposed of.

In August, 1923, the Soldier Settlement Board was transferred by Order in Council from the Minister of the Interior and placed under the Minister of Immigration and Colonization; it has become the Land Settlement Branch of that Department. In this way the Department is able to offer a land settlement service to newcomers; the inexperienced immigrant has thus a disinterested source of advice on farming districts and land values which will afford him a means of protection against unfair exploitation and his own ignorance of local conditions. The Branch gives the benefit of its knowledge and experience to those coming to Canada from Great Britain and the United States with directing certificates from immigration authorities. During 1924, 2,728 directing certificates were issued to such settlers. Further, 5,640 newcomers, desiring to work with farmers to gain experience with a view to taking up farms of their own, were directed to farm work by the Branch during the year.

2.—Department of the Secretary of State.

The Department of the Secretary of State was constituted in its present form in 1873, through the merging of the previously-existing offices of the Secretaries of State for Canada and for the Provinces. The Secretary of State is the official mouthpiece of the Governor-General, as well as the medium of communication between the Dominion and Provincial Governments, all correspondence between the two being conducted by him with the Lieutenant-Governors. He is also the custodian of the Great Seal of Canada and the Privy Seal, as well as the channel by which the general public may approach the Crown.

The Secretary of State is also the Registrar-General, registering all proclamations, commissions, charters, land patents and other instruments issued under the Great Seal. He is further charged with the administration of the Companies Act, the Canada Temperance Act, the Naturalization Act, the Board of Trade and Trade Unions Acts, the Ticket of Leave Act and the War Charities Act. The following information on these subjects has been secured in the course of administration.

Charters of Incorporation.—The number of companies incorporated under the Companies Act and amending Acts during the fiscal year 1923-24 was 604, with a total capitalization of \$204,646,283. Supplementary letters patent were granted to 168 companies during the year, 58 of which increased their capital stock by the aggregate amount of \$15,352,755; 27 decreased their capital stock by \$57,944,410; the remaining 83 being granted supplementary letters patent for various purposes, such as changing names, extending powers, etc. The total capitalization of new companies plus the increase of capital of existing companies amounted to \$219,999,038.