

Apart from the Family Scheme, the Land Settlement Branch has had many and varied activities, the chief being: the settlement of Continental families brought out by the railways, under the Government Continental Family Scheme; the placement and after-care of British farm workers recruited by the Department of Immigration and Colonization; investigations of the *bona fides* of nominations made by residents of Canada in favour of residents of Great Britain and after-care of British farm workers brought out by the Department as a result of such nominations; after-care of British farm workers brought out by the colonization departments of the railways and the Ontario Government; surveys to ascertain lands available for colonization and many other similar activities.

During the year several large areas have been opened for development and many families have been placed thereon under the aegis of the Board. One of these was a tract of between 8,000 and 9,000 acres of virgin land which was formerly a part of the Saddle Lake Indian Reserve, 11 miles west of St. Paul de M tis, Alberta. The block was divided into 51 farm units of from 160 to 240 acres each. Contracts were let for buildings, pasture fences and wells. Fifty families of 396 persons were placed on this reserve. Also, 21 families brought out by the Department were placed on part of the Porcupine Forest Reserve, in the Prince Albert district of Saskatchewan.

By an agreement entered into during the year between the Imperial Government, the New Brunswick Government and the Dominion Government, the settlement of 500 British families in the province of New Brunswick has been provided for. The Provincial Government will purchase the farms, while the British Government will provide funds up to \$1,500 per settler for establishment expenses. The Land Settlement Branch of the Department will co-operate in the selection of the land, make arrangements for employment of the migrants during the first year, purchase equipment for the farms selected with money provided by the British Government, and provide for the usual supervisory services until the families are well established.

Since the inception of the Soldier Settlement Board loans to settlers have totalled \$109,337,570. Of this amount \$5,330,895 has been charged to British family settlers, and \$2,923,381 has been cancelled on account of reduction of live stock indebtedness, leaving a net total of \$101,083,294. The outstanding indebtedness of soldier settlers is \$78,618,208 principal and \$4,131,963 interest. There has been returned to the Treasury a total of \$34,549,404, this total being made up of repayments on account of principal, \$18,320,360; interest, \$9,989,229; initial payments, \$6,185,053; deposit held in suspense, \$54,760. In the calendar year 1927 the amount repaid to the Treasury was \$4,378,128. One thousand and fifty-one settlers have paid off their entire loans.

Total settlers under the Act number 39,363, loans having been granted to 24,480. Twelve thousand one hundred and thirty-six took up soldier grants without loans. Two hundred and twenty-four were Indian soldier settlers and 2,523 civilian purchasers. In the past year 959 farms reverted to the Board, making a total of 8,652 farms which have been given up by soldier settlers. About 63 p.c. of these farms have been disposed of either by sale or reservation for families under the British Family Scheme. The Board has sold 3,623 to civilian purchasers, soldier settlers and British Empire settlers, and 1,918 farms are being reserved for settlers under the British Family Scheme.

Revaluation of soldier lands, provided for by Parliament in 1927, is proceeding. Of the total number of settlers 10,682 are eligible to apply for revaluation, and 7,859 had made such application up to Oct. 1, 1927.