

Section 6.—Land Settlement—The Soldier Settlement Board.

During 1928 the Board proceeded with the revaluation of soldier settlers' lands, as authorized by the Act of 1927 (c. 68). Slightly over 8,000 settlers applied for revaluation, and at the end of the year 6,968 appraisals had been made and 3,080 awards approved. These awards totalled \$2,565,503, the reduction granted amounting to 22 p.c. It is expected that the work of revaluation will be completed during the summer of 1929. The revaluation legislation provides that the depreciation in value of the farm shall be the amount by which, through no neglect or mismanagement on the part of the settler, the price at which the Board agreed to sell the land and improvements to the settler exceeds the present value.

Loans granted to 24,708 settlers since the beginning of the scheme amounted to \$110,755,948. There are 10,273 active soldiers on free grant lands, of whom 3,621 have been granted loans.

The amount of money loaned has been substantially reduced. Payments made to the treasury have totalled \$39,119,783, of which \$12,141,282 represents interest payments. During the calendar year 1928 payments received amounted to \$4,943,489, of which \$2,117,273 was interest.

Since re-establishment 1,266 settlers have repaid their whole indebtedness to the Board. A majority of those remaining on the land continue to meet their annual payments promptly. In the ten years there have been re-sales of Board's lands numbering 6,565, about 3,000 to civilian settlers, 2,500 to British families and the remainder to other soldier settlers.

Over 6,000,000 acres of land have been bought or homesteaded by soldier settlers, at an average cost of \$10 an acre. Of this, it is estimated that 2,000,000 acres have been brought into cultivation by the efforts of the settlers, making a very substantial contribution to the wealth of the country.

Apart from the soldier settlement phase of the Board's activities, the Land Settlement Branch has been instrumental in establishing a number of migrants on farm lands under various agreements with the British Government. Under the "3,000 Family Scheme" 2,997 families had come forward at the end of last year, in all 16,804 individuals. These families brought with them about \$1,000,000 of their own money. Of this number 1,937 families had been established on farms, having contracted to purchase the properties on which they were living during the probationary period of one or two years, the land costing \$7,427,148. British money already advanced for the purchase of chattels was \$2,597,797, and another \$2,000,000 was available for the purpose. Already of the sum advanced the migrants have repaid \$557,152, including \$130,000 assisted passage money. Many of the settlers established under this scheme are making exceptional progress, although some of them had no agricultural experience in the Old Country.

In another family scheme to bring 500 families from the British Isles for establishment on the land in New Brunswick, the provincial government is a partner to the extent that it provides the money for the purchase of the land, while the British Government provides the money for equipment and the Land Settlement Branch undertakes the supervision. Last year 95 families of 627 individuals came