

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

The revaluation of soldier settlers' lands, under an amendment to the Soldier Settlement Act passed in 1927, was practically completed in 1929. The number of settlers making application for revaluation was 8,322 and 8,103 farms have been revalued. Final awards by Board officers have been made in 7,043 cases. The aggregate sale price of these farms to soldier settlers was \$26,557,338 and the reduction allowed totalled \$6,379,930, an average reduction throughout Canada of 24 p.c. Two hundred and sixty-five settlers appealed to the Exchequer Court from the Board's decision. One hundred and twenty-nine appeals were dismissed and 15 were sustained, while 116 appeal cases are yet to be heard.

From the inception of the Soldier Settlement Scheme to the end of the calendar year 1929 loans amounting to \$111,447,209 have been granted to soldier settlers. The amount loaned has been substantially reduced, the present investment, including unpaid interest, standing at \$71,715,941. Loan payments by settlers have totalled \$43,138,684, of which \$13,907,743 was interest. In the collection year which ended June 30, 1929, soldier settlers paid in \$3,974,035. Since the beginning 1,447 soldier settlers have repaid their whole debt to the Board.

The Board has resold 6,327 reverted farms. During the past year 1,286 farms were resold at an aggregate price of nearly \$3,000,000.

Under the 3,000 Family Agreement with the British Government, 3,349 families have come forward for farm settlement in all the provinces of Canada and 2,045 families are now actively farming under land purchase agreement, the total purchase price of their lands being \$8,270,914. Five hundred and seventy-one families are still on probation, 86 started farming independently of the scheme and 647 families have withdrawn from the scheme. Of the 3,349 families who came forward, 3,214 are still in Canada and 2,829 are engaged in agriculture under the scheme or privately. The British Government has advanced over \$3,000,000 for the purchase of chattels for these families, and \$1,500,000 is still available for this purpose.

Under the New Brunswick 500 Family Scheme 198 families were brought out in 1928 and 1929. Ten of these families have withdrawn from settlement. During 1929 the Board received for five years' aftercare 1,131 British farm workers. The total number of cases received by the Land Settlement Branch for aftercare in the four years of the operation of the agreement is 18,305, including 3,860 families, 12,577 single men and 1,868 trainees. This number does not include families brought out under the 3000 and 500 Family Schemes.

Three hundred and seven migrants who reported to the Land Settlement Branch carrying directing certificates issued by the Department's agents in Great Britain and the United States were assisted in connection with their various settlement problems. Special investigations during the year were carried on in 5,480 cases. These included: 854 married British farm workers, 99 juveniles, 483 household workers, 991 aliens for admission, 1,323 aliens in connection with settlement, 467 for collection of assisted passage money and 1,263 miscellaneous matters. Farm labour placements during the year numbered 6,750, bringing the total of placements from the inception in 1924 to the end of 1929 to 50,362.

Section 7.—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