

Section 6.—Soldier and General Land Settlement.¹

Soldier settlers and other settlers under the jurisdiction of the Soldier Settlement of Canada have, in common with Canadian farmers generally, been confronted with adverse agricultural conditions during the year under review. In view of this situation the Department has continued its general policy of reasonable leniency to all settlers who are making an honest effort to handle their farms efficiently and to live within their means. The fact that no settler has been dispossessed of his farm during the past two years, by action of the Department, because of inability to meet his payments, is the best evidence of adherence to this general policy.

At the present time the Soldier Settlement of Canada is administering 22,986 farm properties, made up as follows: soldier settlers, 11,535; civilian settlers, 5,475; British families, 2,274; reverted farms, 3,702; total, 22,986.

The total number of soldier settlers established with loans was 24,715. Gross charges, including interest, to soldier settlers' and British Family settlers' accounts amounted to \$148,438,358.68 at the close of 1932. Reduction of this amount to the present net investment of \$63,862,224.68 is accounted for as follows:

Repayments by settlers (principal and interest).....	\$ 50,863,695.17
Remedial legislative reductions.....	21,703,845.77
Losses on security sold.....	12,003,593.08
Total.....	\$ 84,576,134.00

In addition to the \$21,703,845.77 actually written off soldier settlers' accounts these settlers have benefited to the extent of \$10,269,108.87 in interest not charged to their accounts, in accordance with legislation passed in 1922.

During the past three years the annual administration costs of soldier and general land settlement have been reduced by \$557,121.86. The administrative expenditure for the fiscal year 1929-30 was \$1,362,121.86, while the administration cost for the fiscal year ended Mar. 31, 1933, is estimated at \$805,000. This reduction in annual administration cost is due to complete re-organization of the Department, including Head Office, district offices and field staff, resulting in the elimination of three district offices; termination of the services of 158 former members of the staff, including 16 senior executive officers; elimination of 43 motor cars and curtailment in travelling and other expenses. The annual cost of soldier land settlement is now \$567,000, which is less than 1 p.c. of the net loan investment.

Of the settlers who have retired from the scheme 4,952 have repaid their loans in full (2,385 by cash repayment, 2,567 by sale of properties).

In 1932 the Department leased 2,065 properties to local farmers and effected the sale of 456 properties.

Under the British Family Scheme 3,346 families were accepted for settlement. Of these 175 withdrew from the scheme before receiving advances, and 1,165 withdrew after contracting loans, making a total of 1,340 withdrawals. There are now 1,981 families operating farms under the Three Thousand Family Scheme. Thirteen families have repaid their loans; twelve families have not yet received loans.

Under the New Brunswick British Family Scheme 359 families were accepted for settlement. Of these 293 are still on the land; 62 have withdrawn, 57 after contracting loans, five before contracting loans; four have not yet received loans.

¹Revised by C. W. Cavers, Soldier Settlement of Canada. Figures are as at Dec. 31, 1932.