

The following numbers of settlers had applied for the benefits of the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act; 950 soldier settlers, 562 civilian settlers, 527 British Family settlers. Of this number 534 cases of soldier settlers had been disposed of, involving indebtedness of \$1,911,508 and a reduction of \$562,765; civilians, 370 cases disposed of, debt \$1,309,763, reduction \$391,620; British Family settlers, 285 cases disposed of, indebtedness \$1,195,159, reduction \$443,214.

The supervision staff of the Department have made land appraisals and reported on the application of settlers (other than those under the Soldier Settlement of Canada) under the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act. To Dec. 31, 1937, 7,573 land appraisals and reports had been made in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, and the Maritime Provinces.

Other investigational services in the calendar year 1937 were: 844 investigations for the Department of Mines and Resources; 4,014 investigations in rural districts with respect to applications under the War Veterans' Allowance Act of 1930; 3,057 investigations for the Department of Pensions and National Health and the Canadian Pension Commission with respect to applications for relief allowances and special investigations of pension cases in rural districts.

### 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 State for Canada and for the provinces. The Secretary of State is the official mouthpiece of the Government as well as the medium of communication between the Dominion and Provincial Governments, all correspondence between the Governments 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, licences, warrants, writs, and other instruments issued under the Great Seal and the Privy Seal. He is further charged with the administration of the Boards of Trade Act, the Companies Act, the Canada Temperance Act, the Copyright Act, the Naturalization Act, the Patent Act, the Trade Unions Act, the Ticket of Leave Act, the Unfair Competition Act, and with the collection and tabling of parliamentary returns. Statistics regarding patents and copyrights appear under Chapter XVII at pp. 611-613. The following information on other 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 ended Mar. 31, 1937, was 410 with a total capitalization of \$130,767,280. Supplementary letters patent were granted during the year to 341 companies, 72 of which increased their capital stock by the aggregate amount of \$143,597,766; 105 decreased their capital stock by \$123,837,999; the remaining 84 were 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 \$274,365,046, partly offset by the above-mentioned decreases in capitalization totalling \$123,837,999.

\* Revised by E. H. Coleman, K.C., LL.D., Under-Secretary of State, Department of the Secretary of State.