

The total area of land occupied by soldier settlers under the Act is 4,854,799 acres, made up as follows:

Purchased land.....	2,153,184	acres
Encumbered land.....	360,227	"
Soldier grants (with loans).....	980,108	"
Soldier grants (without loans)...	1,361,280	"
	<hr/>	
	4,854,799	"

The average size of farms varies according to provinces, the largest being in the Prairie Provinces and the smallest in British Columbia. The following figures show the average acreage of farms and average cost per acre, by provinces:

Province.	Average Acreage.	Average cost per acre.
		\$ cts.
P.E.I.....	86	27 70
N.S.....	140	19 55
N.B.....	138	18 40
Que.....	116	34 19
Ont.....	99	40 00
Man.....	220	17 00
Sask.....	223	17 20
Alta.....	232	16 80
B.C.....	63	48 36

In purchasing land or stock and equipment, the settler makes his own selection and drives the best bargain he can with the vendor. Before the Board will purchase, it requires appraisal by its own official, in order to ensure that the expenditure of public money is safeguarded and that no more than value is paid. In this way, the Board has saved large sums of money to returned soldiers in purchasing land, and an amount aggregating \$3,632,421.36 has been cut from the prices stated in the applications as the vendor's lowest price. This is an average saving over the whole Dominion of over seven and a half per cent.

In 1919 the Government gave the Board power to withdraw from Forest Reserves land that was suitable for agriculture and the first area withdrawn was a portion of the Porcupine Forest Reserve in Saskatchewan. This was thrown open July 1, 1919, for free entry and 150 new settlers went in and established a camp. Burning of brush land was undertaken, a station was built at Prairie River on the C.N.R. and considerable work has been done in order to afford facilities for the new settlers. The Board also was given power to declare "settlement areas" where lands are being held from cultivation. The Board may purchase these lands at a figure to be decided by the Exchequer Court, if the owners are unwilling to sell at the price offered. Other large areas of idle lands in the Western Provinces have come into the possession of the Soldier Settlement Board and have been disposed of to returned soldiers. Some of these areas