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POST-WAR REHAB. COUNCIL. INTER DEPT'L CMTE ON
AGR.... Reports, etc. of Sub-committee on Emigration.

PABC

POST-WAR REHABILITATION COUNCIL
INDEX OF PLANS AND PROPOSALS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE
 requiring further study, analysis and report.

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 POST-WAR REHABILITATION COUNCIL
 Parliament Buildings

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Nov. 3rd 1942

The Advisory Committee on Agriculture and Land Settlement begs to report as follows:

That the Dominion Government has not yet appointed a Director of Soldier Settlement under the "Veterans Land Act, 1942," nor have Advisory Committees been set up in the Provinces.

Until this is done, and an agreement reached as between the Dominion and Provincial Governments it will be difficult to proceed along definite lines.

Under the Soldiers Settlement Act, 1919, there were 11,131 applications for loans in British Columbia, 3,734 of which were granted. Of these 797 have been paid off and 965 are still in the scheme, which means that about 50% were more or less successful.

Under the 1942 Vocational Training plan the 50% who did not adapt themselves so well should be eliminated during the trial year, estimating the proportion of misfits as the same as after the last war.

This war, being more highly mechanized, should leave us with more mechanics to provide work for and proportionately fewer farmers.

One can only guess at the number who will want to go on the land, but it should be estimated in British Columbia at not less than 12,000, of whom probably 6000 will qualify to come under the Veterans Land Act, 1942.

To provide each of these with 160 acres would require 960,000 acres of land. Some, of course, will require smaller holdings.

It is strongly recommended that only land which has been soil-surveyed and reported on favorably, especially as regards possible available water supply, be allotted to returned soldiers.

At present, soil surveys have been made in the Fraser Valley, most of which land was alienated from the Crown years ago; Central British Columbia, from Prince George to Vanderhoof; part of Vancouver Island and part of the Okanagan Valley.

900,000 acres have been soil-surveyed in Central British Columbia this year, but reports on this survey and that of previous years will not be available for some time. There is considerable mapping to be done before the data goes to Ottawa for printing.

There are no large areas of arable land in this Province, as we have on the Prairies and in parts of Ontario and Quebec, except perhaps part of the Peace River country and in Central British Columbia.

A general survey shows that only two per cent of the area of British Columbia can be described as agricultural land.

Agricultural settlement in British Columbia in the past has been largely the result of mining, railroad, and industrial development.

Established fruit production has resulted in the Okanagan and to a smaller extent in the Kootenays, and dairying and mixed farming in the Fraser Valley, but British Columbia cannot be described in a general sense as an agricultural country.

Its agricultural development has been and will be largely contingent on industrial development.

However, several thousands of returned soldiers will be bound that they will take up farming in this Province and we must provide for them as best we can, under the provisions of the Federal "Veterans Land Act, 1942."

There were three reasons for failure under the land settlement schemes following the last war.

They were:- Poor land; the wrong man on the land, and high prices for land - at that time we had \$2.00 wheat.

The prime necessity is good land and a soil survey provides the best guide for successful settlement.

It is understood that, under the present scheme, land will be selected by the Director of Soldier Settlement or his representatives.

It is recommended that vacant Crown lands within the Province be granted to the Director of Soldier Settlement free of charge. This will allow the maximum credit to the soldier in preparing the land and erecting buildings.

Under the Federal Vocational Training Plan, which helps support a returned man for 52 weeks while he is training as a farmer, most of the wrong men should be eliminated.

It is suggested that those in charge of Experimental Farms; District Agriculturists and Horticulturists and Government Agents list the farmers in their districts who can take care of vocational trainees and report on their suitability.

Since the passing of the Federal Veterans Land Act land prices in some areas have been and are rising. This is one of the headaches of the Director of Soldier Settlement, but it may be assumed that many of the mistakes after the last war will this time be avoided.

If only soil-surveyed lands are considered, the areas are limited and it will be necessary to carry out much more extensive soil surveys, a work for which there are very few qualified men in the Province at the present time, nor will there be many more when the war is over.

Six additional parties would be necessary to cover the balance of Central British Columbia in 1943 and a further six parties could be used elsewhere in the Province.

It is recommended that settlement be permitted only in areas already served with roads and schools; that marketing of farm products be established on a basis that will ensure to the producer a fair and proper share of the consumer's dollar; that, where clearing is necessary it be done by machines,

but that only as much land be cleared as the settler can conveniently crop without hired help, the remainder of the timber being left for use and timber cultivation.

It is assumed that each settler will make his own arrangements with the Director of Soldier Settlement in regard to buildings and with his neighbors in regard to joint use of implements, the latter a very thorny problem which is usually a severe test of human nature.

Marketing will depend largely on the production of crops suitable to the district and in general demand in outside markets. Such work is a continual study by District Agriculturists and guidance of the settler in this regard should be left in the hands of the local official.

It is recommended that, as an adjunct to Land Settlement Rehabilitation, the Agricultural Club work carried on amongst the young be expanded even to becoming part of the regular school education, as it is felt that everything possible should be done to foster an interest in farming amongst the boys and girls of school age so that they may stay on the land and become efficient agriculturists.

The proposals placed before the Committee have been segregated into Districts and submitted to the District Agriculturists and Horticulturists for report.

The proposals have also been segregated, as per the attached statements, into those which are considered matters of Federal policy, and matters which are already within the scope of existing Provincial Government Departments, such as what crops may be produced in given areas.

Item 107 - Regarding the proposal of Principal Klinck that
Page soil-survey and climatic data on file in the Departments be
20 collated by members of the University staff, the Hon. the
Minister of Agriculture has appointed Mr. C. C. Kelly to
carry out this work.

Lands owned by Japanese in British Columbia have been placed under the control of Mr. Gordon Murchison, Director of Soldier Settlement at Ottawa under the 1919 Act.

Item A copy of the report on the Guelph Conference on
41 the Conservation of the Natural Resources of Ontario was
Page secured and a precis of its contents submitted to each
6 member.

The chief proposal was the appointment of a Commission to study every phase of land use and conservation and to act in an advisory capacity to the officials of the various Departments.

A permanent secretary was appointed and an office opened in Toronto in February last, but the Commission has not yet been appointed.

The Ontario Department of Lands and Forests carried out an investigation last summer over a small area near Port Hope, but the report is not yet available.

Items 54 & Regarding the proposal to lower the level of
67 Lillooet Lake and carry out an extensive reclamation scheme
Page at Pemberton Meadows, Mr. George Spence, Director of Re-
23 habilitation, Federal Department of Agriculture, Regina, Sask.,

- 4 -

has been collecting data on this project for some time for the Dominion Government.

Over twenty years ago, Mr. E. A. Cleveland was asked by a syndicate to report on such a scheme, but, after preparing plans and making soil tests, some difficulty arose and the project was dropped.

Mr. Cleveland has sent his plans to Mr. Spence at Regina.

The proposal to cultivate blueberries on the peat lands in the Fraser Valley has had the full support of officials of the Department of Agriculture and is progressing.

The Superintendent of Lands and the Surveyor-General reported to the Committee that an examination of an area of 7000 acres at Seymour Arm had been made as it had been suggested as a suitable area for soldier settlement.

It was found that there was not sufficient arable land in the area to warrant a soil survey being made.

The soil survey reports of Messrs. Kelly and Farstad and the economics report of Mr. Mulholland covering an area in Central British Columbia are awaited and should prove valuable when ready.

It is recommended that the rebate of \$500.00 on land purchased from the Land Settlement Board by B. C. enlisted soldiers in the last war be extended to B. C. enlisted men in the present war.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Chairman

Acting Secretary

Extracts from the report of Mr. T.F. Robson, Inspector of
Schools, Prince George.

FARM INSTRUCTION CENTRES.

Centres of instruction for farm workers might advantageously be established at several points, and regular school courses made more easily adjustable to rural needs. Trade schools are accessible to industrial workers but the techniques of agriculture are neglected. A farmer worthy of the name is a skilled craftsman - probably the most versatile and resourceful of all craftsmen. Yet the average farm worker receives scarcely any systematic instruction and training. If he is to retain pride in his calling its importance should be given due weight. Canada has become an industrial nation and more attention will have to be given to food supply. Our Industrial Arts programme emphasizes workshop and factory skills, but the oldest art, agriculture, is overlooked. In agricultural areas technical training should embrace the use of raw materials, machinery, and the implements of husbandry. In settled countries agricultural skill is a heritage; in new lands it requires development. Provision of farm training centres, besides providing immediate employment for returned men, would fill a basic need in reconstruction and the cost would be insignificant in comparison with current expenditures for war purposes.

AGRICULTURE.

Central British Columbia is essentially a mixed-farming area. The cultivation of a single crop should be discouraged. In order to give greater security through reducing the hazard of crop failure, settlers should be encouraged to practice more intensive farming on smaller holdings. The migration of prairie farmers has established a tradition of large acreages and single crops which is unsuited to the climate and terrain of this area. There is a tendency to despise any land that is not arable. Good pasturage is widespread, and the raising of cattle, sheep, swine and poultry, while making the settler largely self-supporting, minimizes disaster due to loss of a crop and insures restoration to the land of organic fertilizer necessary to the maintenance of fertility. Most vegetables and some fruits can be economically produced here, and the range could be extended by systematic research. At present, fruit, vegetables, poultry, meat and dairy products are freighted over considerable distances to centres which should be local markets. Regulation of production and distribution is essential if settlements are to be successful. Government assistance in the control of pests, weeds and predatory animals would increase production and provide employment for a number of returned men. The possibilities of sheep raising are enormous if scientific methods were employed and if wolves and coyotes were exterminated.

Research to determine suitable strains of animals and plants could occupy a number of trained men, and instruction centres could employ more. At present experimental stations and demonstration farms are too far removed from the life of the people to function to the greatest advantage. Soil conservation should be taught and

demanded; the land is a heritage to be developed. Utilization of organic wastes, scientific feeding of stock on home-grown products, and systematic crop rotation are essential if our agricultural resources are to be preserved for posterity.

Time was when the farmer was the backbone of society and land a prized possession. With economic conditions unfavourable to farming the cream of the rural population has left the land for the more lucrative urban centres, thus reducing the quality of rural life. Farming must be made sufficiently attractive to attract the right type of settler. The growing tempo of modern life requires more than ever before the stabilizing influence and virility of those whose roots are in the soil.

SETTLEMENT.

Settlement in the past has been too hap-hazard. Many homes are so isolated that the provision of public services is uneconomical and people are reduced to a primitive existence. Such settlement invariably develops a rugged individualism inconsistent with social co-operation. Central British Columbia has never been thickly enough settled to attract the professional classes and skilled workers essential to a full community life. With planned settlement a quota of doctors, dentists and nurses could be provided. Lack of planned co-ordination between government departments has resulted in numerous settlements deficient in one or more essential public services. It is my suggestion that future settlements should result from a master plan whereby self-sufficing communities, integrated in a Dominion or Provincial wide scheme, would include a quota of professional workers and craftsmen and the institutions necessary to well-being and progress.

While regimentation, destructive of initiative and self-respect, should be avoided, the grouping of selected settlers of racial-compatibility would seem desirable. Backward peoples, unlikely to be assimilated, and those of extreme religious and political cults should have no part in the scheme. Democracy implies freedom within the limits of social co-operation. Central Europeans and Asiatics who have settled here in recent decades still retain their racial characteristics and customs. Settlers who are not assimilated invariably act as a brake on general progress.

Village communities admit of economical provision of public services and supervision. They should be located on sites chosen by government officials working in co-operating. Man is by nature gregarious and soldiers and industrial workers, accustomed to company, will require it in post-war reconstruction. Co-operation in the use of labour and machinery promotes efficiency and greater leisure. Centres of reasonable size admit of amenities which, by providing an outlet for leisure, make rural life more attractive.

HOLDINGS

To be successful, settlement should aim at the maintenance of settlers from the land they acquire. To ensure this expert assistance will be needed in the choice of farm lands. The nucleus of a home and some cleared land should be prepared before actual settlement. The struggle to build a home and hew out a holding by primitive methods before starting actual cultivation should not be expected of those who have given their prime to their country's service. Machine clearing and drainage should be made available. Most men will require a period of adjustment on return to peace time occupations. This period might well be occupied in preliminary work and instruction. War compensation might take the form of public assistance in such measures.

HOMES

Homes should be constructed from prepared plans ensuring health, sanitation and convenience, but allowing for modifications to suit individual preferences. The average settler-built home is neither aesthetic nor economic. Among returned men needing employment will be architects and craftsmen. The provision of public accommodation and community buildings will also absorb labour.

INDUSTRIES

The establishment of accessible industrial plants for processing of products of the area should be considered. A prosperous farming population, demanding improved living conditions, is the manufacturer's best customer. It may not be possible to bring rural youth back to the land but it may be possible to retain them by establishing a measure of industry in their midst. Mills, abattoirs, and canning plants may be mentioned. A woolen industry has possibilities, and seeds, sugar beet, and flax should be investigated.

The foregoing may appear visionary. Experience has shown that when the occasion demands, funds are obtainable. The cessation of hostilities will leave a new crisis in which rehabilitation will be a vital problem. After the last war the fruits of victory were allowed to slip through our fingers. We cannot afford to discontinue the sacrifices we are making for immediate security until a sound foundation for the reconstruction of society has been built.

10.30 am Monday Nov 2

Chairman Roberton - Green - Cole - Dixon

Orchard - Macquinn's Memo Taylor

10.35 Minutes adopted as read

Reported by Chairman that Mr. C. C. Kelly has been appointed to collect data on soils and crop production

Proposals had been submitted to Dist. Agricultural Officer report. Manning still working a date. Hunt at Nelson

reporting on trees proposed

Re Japanese lands in B.C.

Reported by Chairman. No Director of Veterans has yet selected

No Prov. Committee had yet been appointed

Conference
Study of Cuelph report

Letter from Secretary read by Chairman

Matter of Blueberry growing on Lala Island

Draining Pemberton Meadows Proposal outlined & explanatory

of present standing of same by Chairman

Proposal by H. Bowman re development of Central B.C. along

line of C.N.R.

Lands at Seymour Arm Report by Mr. Bowman Taylor of reconnaissance

Survey by Forest Board Would hardly warrant soil survey at present time