

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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REPORT

OF THE

RETURNED SOLDIERS AID  
COMMISSION

(BRITISH COLUMBIA)

APPOINTED BY ORDER IN COUNCIL APPROVED BY HIS  
HONOUR THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR  
NOVEMBER 29TH, 1915



THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

PRINTED BY  
AUTHORITY OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

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VICTORIA, B.C. :

Printed by WILLIAM H. CULLIN, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty.

1916.

VICTORIA, B.C., March 16th, 1916.

*Hon. W. J. Bowser, K.C.,*  
*Premier, Victoria, B.C.*

SIR,—Herewith I beg leave to hand you report of the Commission appointed by the Provincial Government to deal with, and make recommendations regarding, the aid to returned soldiers.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

HENRY ESSON YOUNG,

*Chairman.*

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THE RETURNED SOLDIERS AID COMMISSION  
(BRITISH COLUMBIA).

CHAIRMAN.

Dr. H. E. YOUNG, LL.D., M.L.A., representing the Government of British Columbia.

MEMBERS.

His Worship Mayor A. STEWART, representing the City of Victoria;

His Worship Mayor A. W. GRAY, representing the City of New Westminster;

A. E. PLANTA, Esq., representing the City of Nanaimo;

Alderman R. H. GALE, representing the City of Vancouver;

A. C. BURDICK, Esq., representing the Returned Soldiers Employment Committee of Victoria;

E. W. HAMBER, Esq., representing the Returned Soldiers Committee of the Canadian Club,  
of Vancouver.

OFFICES.

Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C.

SECRETARY.

JAMES H. HILL, Esq., Victoria, B.C.

## REPORT OF RETURNED SOLDIERS COMMISSION.

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Your Provincial Returned Soldiers Aid Commission, appointed by Order in Council approved November 29th, 1915, beg to submit the following report:—

The first meeting of the Commission was held at the Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C., November 29th, 1915, the following gentlemen comprising the Commission being present:—

Dr. H. E. Young, M.P.P. (Chairman), representing the Government of the Province of British Columbia;

His Worship Mayor A. Stewart, representing the City of Victoria;

His Worship Mayor A. W. Gray, representing the City of New Westminster;

His Worship Mayor A. E. Planta, representing the City of Nanaimo;

Alderman Joseph Hoskins, representing the City of Vancouver;

A. C. Burdick, Esq., representing the Returned Soldiers Employment Committee, of Victoria;

E. W. Hamber, Esq., representing the Returned Soldiers Committee of the Canadian Club, of Vancouver; and

James H. Hill, Esq., Secretary.

The Chairman outlined to the members the duties of the Commission, and stated its objects with regard to making provision for the welfare of returned members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force were:—

- (a.) The finding of immediate employment for those discharged soldiers already returning to Canada who are able to work;
- (b.) The provision of any special or technical training or treatment necessary to assist disabled soldiers who may be unable to take up their former employment to secure other employment;
- (c.) The devising of a practical method of placing returned soldiers on the land under such conditions as will enable them to provide comfortably for themselves and families;
- (d.) The finding of employment for the large number of soldiers who, within a short space of time, will return to Canada upon the conclusion of the war.

It was the feeling of the Commission that the matter of finding employment for those soldiers already returning to Canada who are able to work would best be dealt with by the formation of sub-committees in the different centres throughout the Province, who would be charged with the duty of taking care of the interests of the men returning to the various districts. The sub-committees to work in conjunction with the Provincial Commission, and to keep that body advised as to the men returning and the disposition made of them.

This work was immediately proceeded with. The cities, municipalities, and Government Agencies of the Province, seventy-six in all, were advised of the work undertaken by the Military Hospitals Commission and the Provincial Commission, and requested to form local employment committees to work in conjunction with these bodies. So far forty committees have been organized and others are expected to meet our request shortly.

The larger cities of the Province, Vancouver, Victoria, New Westminster, and Nanaimo, have appointed strong committees and are doing good work. It is altogether probable that the bulk of the returning men will be dealt with at these points. So far, 239 reports on men have been received from the Discharge Depot at Quebec and distributed to the various local sub-committees, who report 149 applications, with 114 men provided for, a very good percentage in view of the existing labour conditions. It must also be remembered that many of the men who have registered their names with the different committees are not yet fit to go to work. At this date (March 13th) there are twenty-nine inmates at the Convalescent Home at Esquimalt, and we understand nine are being accommodated at the Tranquille Sanatorium at Kamloops. We are therefore able to account for 152 men. It has already been seen that not all of the men reported as returning to the Province register with our local committees. We have not, however, to concern ourselves immediately with them unless they do so.

In order that the other matters before us might be dealt with as efficiently as possible, the following gentlemen were appointed by the Chairman a committee to investigate and make suggestions to the Commission relative to the best methods to be pursued with regard to the education, technical and agricultural training, and employment of returned men:—

Dr. H. E. Young, M.P.P., Chairman of the Provincial Commission;  
 President Westbrook and  
 Dean L. S. Klinek, of the University of British Columbia;  
 Mr. W. E. Scott, Deputy Minister of Agriculture;  
 Dr. Alexander Robinson, Superintendent of Education;  
 Mr. G. H. Deane, Supervisor of Technical Education;  
 Mr. J. W. Gibson, Director of Elementary Agricultural Training;  
 Mr. J. Kyle, Organizer of Technical Training; and  
 Mr. James H. Hill, Secretary of the Provincial Commission.

A meeting of this sub-committee was held at the office of the Provincial Commission, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C., December 28th, 1915, for the purpose of arriving at a definitely formulated plan which the Commission could submit to the Provincial Government for the education and training of returned men, with the approximate cost of same.

It was thought by the committee that the two features of the educational side of the Provincial Commission's work—i.e., the training of men in technical work and the training in agricultural work—would be best dealt with separately, and accordingly the following sub-committees were appointed:—

Mr. L. S. Klinek, Dean of the University of British Columbia (Convener);  
 Mr. W. E. Scott, Deputy Minister of Agriculture; and  
 Mr. J. W. Gibson, Director of Elementary Agricultural Education;  
 a committee to formulate a plan to be submitted to the Government by the Commission for the agricultural training and education of returned men, with approximate cost of same; their report to include the basis, at least, of a community land-settlement plan.

Mr. J. Kyle, Organizer of Technical Education (Convener);  
 Mr. J. R. Davison, Industrial Commissioner, Vancouver;  
 Mr. T. J. Trapp, of T. J. Trapp & Co., Hardware, New Westminster;  
 Mr. James H. McVety, President, Trades and Labour Council, Vancouver;  
 Mr. A. S. Wells, President, Trades and Labour Council, Victoria;  
 Mr. John A. Taylor, Manager, Royal Bank of Canada, Victoria;  
 Mr. H. J. Scott, Manager, Canadian Explosives, Victoria; and  
 Mr. J. P. Nicolls, Macaulay & Nicolls, Vancouver;  
 a committee to formulate a plan to be submitted to the Government by the Commission for the education, technical training, and employment of returned men, with approximate cost of same.

The reports of these committees form the basis of the recommendations which your Commission is making with regard to the following matters:—

- (1.) The provision of farm lands for settlement by returned soldiers and sailors;
- (2.) The provision of education, technical and agricultural training, and employment of returned disabled men;
- (3.) The establishment of Provincial employment bureaux to provide for the distribution of the labour-supply created by demobilization and immigration;
- (4.) The provision of adequate land to be acquired by the Federal Government for use as a supply farm in connection with the Convalescent Home already established at Esquimalt under the jurisdiction of the Military Hospitals Commission.

#### REGARDING THE MATTER OF LAND-SETTLEMENT BY OUR RETURNED SOLDIERS.

In making the recommendations embodied in our accompanying report, your Commission has endeavoured to lay before your Government a plan which will not only express our appreciation of what is due from the people of Canada and this Province to those men who have fought and suffered in the defence of our national liberties, but which also contains the nucleus of a plan or system which may be enlarged to meet the requirements of a far greater number of settlers than we can expect to find supplied from the ranks of our returned soldiers.

Our primary consideration, however, has been the recognition of what is due to our returned soldiers, and in our recommendations we have endeavoured to place before him a not unattractive plan, by which he may go on the land and become self-supporting under the most favourable conditions.

To briefly summarize the advantages to be enjoyed by the holder of an allotment in one of our suggested co-operative settlements, we would point out: He becomes the owner of a "picked" farm with enough cleared land to enable him to make an immediate start; buildings, live stock, and machinery are supplied in accordance with his expressed wishes, at rates far more reasonable than he could hope to obtain by buying individually; he enjoys good transportation facilities; the support of a co-operative system of purchasing all supplies and selling all surplus produce; the benefits to be gained from having the assistance and advice of experts always at his service; the ability to avail himself of courses of instruction in agricultural matters and the advantages of social life as compared with the isolated condition of the majority of our settlers.

We have recommended that the advantages of these co-operative farm settlements be available to "all returned soldiers." We have made no discrimination, and think they should be open to any man who has served the Empire either under our own flag, that of the Mother-land, or any of the other Overseas Dominions.

It is readily conceivable that this Province, owing to its climatic and other advantages, will attract large numbers of those settlers who will after the war seek new homes in Canada, and that we will be called upon to make provision for many returned soldiers other than those who left this Province for the front.

It will be seen, therefore, that the problem of providing for these is not in any sense a local matter. It is one in which not only all the Provinces of our Dominion are equally interested, but which is of vital interest to the Empire at large, and we feel that the responsibility and cost of making provision to meet the problem is one which should be shared by all those interested.

The problem is of so complex a nature as to probably be the subject of a Federal inquiry. No doubt, however, each Province will be required to devise some plan in accordance with its own resources, and this your Commission has endeavoured to do in so far as this Province is concerned, but we are of the opinion that the matters of the allocation of the lands and the adjudication of the expenses in connection with the entire scheme should be borne in part, at least, by the Imperial and Federal Governments.

There has recently appeared in the *London Standard* a summary of the primary features of a report issued by the departmental committee appointed by the Earl of Selborne, President of the Board of Agriculture, to investigate and make recommendations with regard to the matter of land-settlement for discharged sailors and soldiers.

With the exception of a clause relative to "tenancy," the recommendations offered by this Imperial committee coincide exactly with the principles which had been already formulated by your Commission.

The Imperial committee, in concluding their report, emphasized "that preparations must be made at once to meet the need which will arise when the war is over. Unless demobilized men obtain regular work without delay, there is some danger that they may acquire habits of idleness or swell the ranks of casual labour." The force of this will be apparent to all who have given consideration to the matter.

#### RECOMMENDATION OF THE PROVINCIAL COMMISSION TO THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT.

With regard to the matter of providing farm lands for settlement by returned soldiers, members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, your Commission recommends:—

That in recognition of their services to the Empire,—

1. A land-grant be made these soldiers in accordance with the following regulations:—
2. That an independent Board of Commissioners be appointed to select suitable lands for settlement; to direct the preliminary land-clearing or equivalent, improvements; to approve of the purchase of all stock, implements, etc.; and to administer all the funds in connection with the co-operative settlements.
3. That the land-grant take the form of farms of such acreage as may, in the opinion of the said Board of Commissioners, be best adapted to the different classes of farming to be pursued

thereon, in accordance with the location and adaptability of the land. In those districts best suited to the purposes of mixed farming and dairy farming the acreage will necessarily be larger than where it is the intention of the beneficiary to follow poultry-raising, market-gardening, or fruit-growing.

4. The farms to be located in such districts as may be determined upon by the Board of Commissioners, and that such provision be made by the Government as may enable the said Board of Commissioners to acquire such lands and to carry out the co-operative land-settlement, and that these lands be in blocks of such size as to provide for at least sixty allotments.

5. The farms to be subdivisions of selected areas of suitable size in these respective districts, such areas to be Government lands if available, or to be acquired by the Government for the purpose, and to be within easy access of transportation and markets.

6. Each of the foregoing areas to constitute a Co-operative Settlement, for which purpose it shall be laid out or disposed of as follows: Sufficient acreage to be reserved for a Demonstration Farm, Central Organization Plant, roads, recreation-grounds, etc. The balance of the acreage to be subdivided into farms of such size as may be decided upon by the said Board of Commissioners with regard to the location and the class of farming to be followed thereon.

7. The Central Organization Plant and Demonstration Farm are to be centrally located, in order that they will be within the shortest possible distance from the farms on the boundaries of the areas.

8. It being a prime necessity that all the farms shall have easy access to the Central Organization Plant, roads shall be constructed both along all section-lines and also connecting each farm with the main or trunk roads.

9. The Demonstration Farm eventually to be provided with equipment necessary for the proper working and developing thereof and with live stock in accordance with its requirements.

10. To make complete the organization of the settlement it will be necessary that there be provided those features essential to the successful working out of a co-operative system to be availed of by the soldiers occupying the settlement farms. These will constitute the Central Organization Plant, and will be located centrally in accordance with paragraph 7, and will comprise:—

(a.) General store:

(b.) Creamery:

(c.) Blacksmith-shop:

(d.) Carpenter's shop:

(e.) Public hall:

(f.) School:

(g.) "A residence" designed to provide temporary accommodation for soldiers going to look over the land, etc. It will, in this respect, take the place of an hotel, and should be suitable for the accommodation of the soldiers' wives as well.

11. Those eligible to become possessors of farm lands under this recommendation are:—

(a.) All returned soldiers irrespective of their point of enlistment and without distinction either as to military rank or length of service:

(b.) The son of a deceased or permanently disabled soldier, provided he is at least eighteen years of age. In case the son has not reached this age, provision to be made whereby his mother or guardian can take up the allotment and develop it until such time as he attains the age of eighteen:

(c.) The widow of a deceased soldier:

(d.) The wife of a permanently disabled soldier:

(e.) The daughter of a deceased soldier, if there is no son in the family:

Provided always that only one allotment shall be available by a soldier or any member of his family, and that such allotment will only be made where it is the intention of the beneficiary to make *bona-fide* settlement thereon. It is not intended that these allotments shall be made available for purely speculative purposes.

12. That on each farm allotment there be certain improvements made at the expense of the Provincial Government, said improvements to be confined to land-clearing and to the draining and fencing of the cleared area.

13. That in no case the cost of these initial improvements exceed the sum of \$500 per allotment.

14. That further assistance be given in the way of a long-term loan at a low rate of interest for the purpose of erecting farm buildings, for the purchase of machinery, stock, seed, fodder, household necessities, etc., or for further improvements in clearing, draining, or fencing.

15. That all such stock and equipment be purchased only on approval of the said Board of Commissioners and remain the property of the Government.

16. That a lien or mortgage to the full amount of such loan, with interest as agreed upon, be established against the farm, including all chattels and improvements.

17. That \$1,350 be the maximum amount loaned by the Government against any allotment. The loan transaction to take the form of a credit in supplies which will be charged against the allotment-holder on the books of the Central Organization to be provided by the Board of Commissioners. All such supplies, whether buildings, live-stock, implements, or improvements to the land, will be provided by the Central Organization, though the allotment-holder has, of course, the option of specifying his requirements.

18. That no titles be issued for at least three years from date of entry.

19. That at the expiration of such period, provided improvements to an extent to be decided upon by the Board of Commissioners have been made to the approval of the said Board, patents be issued; any unpaid part of loan to be a first mortgage against the property.

20. That the taxes on any allotment for the year in which such allotment is taken up by a returned soldier be remitted.

21. That arrangements be made whereby a limited number of returned soldiers receive assistance in establishing at the centre of the settlement such industries and occupations as, in the opinion of the Board of Commissioners, directly contribute to the needs of the settlers.

22. That full opportunities to obtain training and instruction in agricultural matters be placed at the disposal of those returned soldiers who may wish to avail themselves of this opportunity to acquire land.

23. That such training and instruction be given under the direction of the College of Agriculture of the Provincial University.

24. That a short course of three months' duration be offered in general agriculture, and that this course be repeated as often as is deemed advisable.

25. That in this course laboratory-work constitute the major part of class-room instruction, and that practical work in the fields, orchards, and stables receive special attention.

26. That tuition be provided by the Provincial Government free of cost for all returned soldiers who are desirous of taking a three months' course with a view to acquiring a holding in the co-operative settlement; their board and lodging while taking such course to be provided by the Dominion Government.

27. That adequate facilities be provided in the way of instructors, class-rooms, dormitories, laboratory and field equipment, stables, live stock, etc., for the efficient carrying-out of the courses indicated above.

28. Applicants for these courses are to be accommodated in the following order:—

(a.) Soldiers who have taken up farms in the Co-operative Settlement and those whose intention it is to do so:

(b.) Soldiers owning farms outside the Co-operative Settlement:

(c.) Other parties desiring to avail themselves of the training offered.

29. That a trained agricultural adviser be appointed for each settlement, and that he undertake field demonstrations in co-operation with the farmers, and generally assist them in the conducting of their work in accordance with best farm practice.

30. That, with a view to assisting those returned soldiers who had taken up pre-emptions before going to the front, they may, if they desire, receive assistance in the form of land improvements to the value of \$500, such improvements to be made by and to be subject to the approval of the said Board of Commissioners.

31. That the nature and extent of the improvements required to be made on any allotment before title to same shall be granted be decided upon by the said Board of Commissioners. Such duties to be performed within reasonable time limits, provided that the total improvements are not required to be done in less than three years' or more than five years' time. Failure on the part of an allotment-holder to comply with the regulations regarding improvements to constitute grounds for the cancellation of such allotment.

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EDUCATION, TECHNICAL AND AGRICULTURAL TRAINING, AND EMPLOYMENT.

With regard to the matters of the education, technical and agricultural training, and employment of those men who, upon their return from the front, are unable, by reason of physical disability, to follow their previous occupations, in our recommendations in this connection your Commission has endeavoured to place before your Government a plan under which the desired objects may be obtained.

With regard to those for whom the provisions outlined in our recommendations are made, it must be borne in mind that many of the same features referred to in our previous report with regard to land-settlement apply in this case also. There is no doubt that we shall be called upon to receive in this Province many a disabled man whose home prior to his enlistment was in some one of the other Provinces of the Dominion. Our climatic conditions alone are sufficient to make this a foregone conclusion.

Manifestly we cannot close our doors to them, and therefore this problem is also one that is not confined to ourselves locally. If it becomes incumbent upon us to receive as wards and patients men from the other Provinces of the Dominion, it is reasonable to suppose that those Provinces should share with us the burden of the responsibility and expense incurred in the training and employment of such men.

We understand from the Blue Book dealing with the work of the Military Hospitals Commission that it is their intention that certain of the expenses in this connection, such as the providing of expert instructors and the maintenance of men undergoing training, are to be borne by the Federal Government.

We expect shortly to be visited by the Vocational Secretary of the Military Hospitals Commission, who will, no doubt, be in a position to give us some further particulars as to this important feature of the case.

Your Commission is confident that there is no desire on the part of this Province to evade any part of its own responsibility in this matter, and that it is prepared to do its full share towards meeting the needs of these men. It must, however, be recognized that our share, as a Province, of the burden of responsibility is one to which every municipality throughout the Province must be keenly alive. They must realize that provision has got to be made for the men returning to their districts, and the expenses in this connection must be borne by the individual municipalities. Local committees have already been formed throughout the Province, through which your Commission purposes dealing with the individual cases of men seeking employment, and the expenses in connection with these organizations must be met by the municipalities in which they are located.

With regard to the matter of the expenses to be incurred in carrying out this work, the plan as outlined in our recommendations calls for provision to the extent of \$14,600, to be borne by the Dominion Government.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PROVINCIAL COMMISSION WITH REGARD TO THE MATTER OF PROVIDING TECHNICAL TRAINING FOR OUR RETURNED SOLDIERS.

1. That arrangements for the training of men for civil life by the following methods be undertaken at once, and that where necessary and feasible a half-time system be established:—

First: By obtaining admission to business colleges:

Second: By apprenticeship:

Third: By supplementing such apprenticeship by study at central classes. The instructors in the central classes to work in conjunction with the firms to which the men are apprenticed.

2. That the organization of the Education Department be used to arrange for this special instruction, and that the Military Hospitals Commission meet the expenses incurred for the services of experts necessary to carry on such instruction.

3. That classes for instruction in the following subjects be formed at those schools in the Province which are, in the opinion of the Education Department, best adapted to the purpose:—

*Commercial Course.*—For office-work and Civil Service Examinations; book-keeping; typewriting; shorthand; commercial English; writing; spelling; correspondence; commercial arithmetic.

*Lettering and Show-card Writing.*—To assist bench-hands in carpentry and joinery, engineering or machine work; draughting—plans, elevation sections, reading, blue-prints; estimating and taking off quantities; mechanics.

*Stationary Engineers.*—Study for British Columbia papers.

*Care and Operation of the Gasolene-engine.*—A practical course dealing especially with the running of automobiles, launches, etc.

*Electrical Work.*—Electrical currents and their work; motors and dynamos—principals and practice of electricity.

*Modelling and Designing.*—For wood-carvers, stone-carvers, or plaster-workers.

*Navigation.*

Any other classes should be included which may be required to supplement the training given at the workshops in which the men may be engaged. These classes to be held during the day, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

4. That where necessary suitable places for board and lodging be provided for men taking such courses, and that provision for their maintenance during the time of instruction, taking into consideration their wages earned and their pension (if any), be made by the Military Hospitals Commission.

5. That classes in general subjects, as English, arithmetic, etc., be established at the Convalescent Home, Esquimalt, and that work-rooms be provided and instruction given in manual arts, such as wood-work, light metalwork, basketry, brush-making, etc., and also that equipment be laid down for developing a factory based on economic lines for brush-making and basket-making.

6. That an Advisory Board be appointed to deal with all cases where retraining seems necessary or desirable. Such Board to comprise a general educationalist, a technical educationalist, a medical man, an employer of labour, and a labour representative.

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF PROVINCIAL EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX.

In connection with the matter of finding employment for the large number of soldiers who, within a short space of time, will return to Canada upon the conclusion of the war, your Commission desires to make the following recommendations with regard to the establishment of Employment Bureaux throughout the Province:—

We are of the opinion that the establishment of such Bureaux will do much to benefit the employment-seeker, the employer, and the Province at large.

Our aim in making these recommendations has been to provide a responsible channel through which not only our own returning soldiers may get in touch with suitable employment, but which will serve the same purpose for the influx of immigrants from other countries which we may reasonably expect after the war.

It is, we think, manifest that the existing system under which the worker and the employer are brought together is inefficient, and that a better system must be put into effect for the assistance and protection of both parties.

In order that our recommendations may not work any unfair hardship on really deserving employment agencies already in existence, we have recommended that the Board of Commissioners appointed to deal with this matter be given discretionary powers with regard to the renewal of the licences of such agencies. This is aimed to provide for the continuance of bodies doing a business of proven respectability and legality, and is intended primarily to apply to such bodies as the Y.W.C.A., the Salvation Army, and other similar organizations which deal principally with the supply of female domestic labour.

We also recommend that provision to the extent of \$15,000 be made in the Estimates of the Provincial Government for the carrying-on of the clerical work connected with the office of the Commission and the various Employment Committees organized throughout the Province with a view to the development of these committees into Employment Bureaux along the lines laid down in this report, and also for the formation of the Board of Commissioners called for in our recommendations with regard to carrying out the plan of land-settlement already outlined.

With regard to the formation of a system under which provision may be made for dealing with the problem of finding suitable employment for those in search of same in this country, we beg to submit the following:—

1. There has already been organized at Ottawa, under the charge of the Honourable Senator Lougheed, P.C., K.C., "The Military Hospitals Commission," which body is charged on behalf of the Federal Government with the duty of "dealing with the question of employment for members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force on their return to Canada."

2. At the instance of this body each Province of the Dominion has assumed the responsibility of dealing with this question within its own borders, through the several Provincial Commissions appointed for the purpose.

3. In order to make efficient the Provincial plan of organization, there has been formed, at the central points throughout the different Provinces, Returned Soldiers Employment Committees, upon whom, in turn, devolves the responsibility of finding employment for the men returning to their respective districts.

4. There has, therefore, now been inaugurated a system of what may be termed "Patriotic Employment Committees" pledged to the self-imposed duty of caring for the necessities of those of our returned soldiers who are capable and who desire to obtain employment.

5. The primary duty of these committees is towards those of our own citizens who are returning home, but judging from the views expressed by those whose ability and experience best qualify them to judge of the situation confronting us, it appears that we may, in Canada, expect to be called upon to welcome also vast numbers of home-seekers from both the United Kingdom and foreign countries.

If it is our pleasure to welcome these settlers, it is also our duty and should be our pleasure and privilege to see that adequate provision is made for their well-being, to save them from the costly mistakes due to ignorance of new conditions and customs, and to protect them from their exploitation at the hands of the unscrupulous.

To this end we suggest the following procedure be adopted:—

- (a.) That the above-mentioned local committees be incorporated as "Employment Bureaux" for the purpose of dealing with applications received from any source:
- (b.) That these Bureaux be the authorized agents of the Provincial Government:
- (c.) That no licences to operate Employment Bureaux be issued by the Government to any person, firm, or corporation other than the above-mentioned bodies:
- (d.) That the expenses of the incorporation and maintenance of these Bureaux be borne by the Provincial Government.
- (e.) That no charge be made for the services of the same:
- (f.) That an independent Board of Commissioners be appointed by the Provincial Government to supervise and control the Bureaux, to regulate the maintenance expenditures, and to administer all the funds in connection therewith. Such Board of Commissioners to be responsible to the Provincial Government for all funds so administered by them:
- (g.) That the Board of Commissioners determine the points at which such Bureaux be established:
- (h.) That, at the discretion of the Board of Commissioners, a limited number of the licences now in force may be renewed from time to time for a period not to exceed one year.

#### SUPPLY FARM IN CONNECTION WITH CONVALESCENT HOME AT ESQUIMALT.

Referring to the matter of the Convalescent Home established by the Military Hospitals Commission at Esquimalt, it is most probable that this institution will fully answer the requirements of the Province in this respect, and that it will develop in process of time into a permanent Soldiers' Home.

The necessity for such Homes in the not-distant future has been recognized by the Military Hospitals Commission, and the establishment of several of them through the Dominion is contemplated by that body. They will be Federal institutions and all expenses in connection with their establishment and maintenance will be borne by the Dominion Government.

In referring to these institutions, the Blue Book dealing with the work of the Military Hospitals Commission points out that such Homes should have a considerable acreage, so that the meat, vegetables, and fruit consumed in the Home might be raised on the premises.

In view of this, at the first meeting of the Sub-committee on Education and Training we appointed a sub-committee to secure information relative to acquiring a piece of land in the immediate vicinity of the Convalescent Home at Esquimalt which would serve as a supply farm for that institution.

This sub-committee have handed in a very comprehensive and thorough report which, in accordance with a resolution of the Committee on Education and Training, your Commission is recommending to the Federal Government through the Military Hospitals Commission. It is the wish of your Commission that their recommendation in regard to this matter should receive the support of your Government, and for this purpose the report is submitted herewith for your consideration.

*Dr. H. E. Young, M.P.P.,  
Chairman, Provincial Returned Soldiers Commission,  
Victoria, B.C.*

SIR,—Your Committee appointed for the purpose of securing information relative to a piece of land convenient to the Soldiers Convalescent Home at Esquimalt and to offer suggestions as to the establishing of shops necessary for the giving of instruction in farm mechanics beg to report as follows:—

Immediately following the appointment of this Committee a preliminary survey of the district in the vicinity of the old Naval Hospital, now being used as a Soldiers' Convalescent Home, revealed the fact that there is available at the present time upwards of 100 acres of good land suitable for general farming and gardening purposes. That so much good land should be found immediately adjoining the present Hospital grounds is peculiarly fortunate when so much rock and waste land exists in that district. As there was no plan of this district which showed the location and extent of the arable lands, we at once decided to secure the services of a land surveyor in order to ascertain the exact location and extent of the available agricultural land. A competent surveyor was employed, who, in company with the members of the Committee, made an examination of the general conditions of soil and contour, and in a general way decided upon the most suitable part of the available agricultural area for the purposes in mind. On account of the unusually stormy weather which followed this investigation, some few weeks elapsed before the detailed survey could be completed and the plans prepared, but we think that the information now at hand will be of considerable value in connection with any further action that may be taken by the Provincial or Dominion Commissions with reference to the project in hand.

Your Committee are of the opinion that, as this part of Vancouver Island possesses such ideal conditions as regards climate and congenial environment, the Soldiers' Home at Esquimalt is likely to become the most important home for disabled soldiers in Western Canada. In view of this fact, we strongly recommend that immediate steps be taken to make the institution as far as possible self-sustaining, by securing sufficient land to provide for the operation of a farm not less than 160 acres in connection with the present Esquimalt Home. The main purpose of this farm would be the providing of such supplies as meat, butter, eggs, milk, vegetables, fruit, etc., to meet the daily needs of the Home. In order to do this economically it would be necessary to carry out the most approved system of mixed farming. Such a farm operated in this way, in addition to its great usefulness as a source of supply for the Soldiers' Home, would also have a certain educational value, not only for such soldiers as might be able to participate in the daily work of the farm during the period of their convalescence, but also for all men interested in the various lines of work included in connection with it.

It is the opinion of your Committee that a small part of this farm, not to exceed 10 acres, should be devoted to the growing of garden vegetables and fruit, and should be so arranged as to provide outdoor occupation for a large number of the men during the greater part of the year. Most of these men would be able to take part in such light work as gardening, fruit-growing, and poultry-raising, but very few would be physically fit for the heavier kinds of farm work. Under competent direction many of these men would soon become proficient as gardeners and poultrymen, and might eventually recover their health and strength to such an extent as to enable them to take positions as managers or directors in connection with these lines of work, and thus become self-supporting. But of even greater importance than this is the fact that the introduction into their lives of new and wholesome interests such as these will do a great deal to bring contentment and even a measure of happiness to them. The amount of recreation as well as the continuous occupation which would thus be afforded would do a great deal to save these disabled soldiers from the awful ennui and discontent that is sure to come with enforced idleness.

In this connection we also take the liberty of suggesting that the present Hospital grounds, comprising about 7 acres, be so laid out as to provide not only for the accommodation of additional buildings in future, but also to provide facilities for outdoor rest and recreation, and that the service of a competent landscape architect be secured to properly lay out these grounds in accordance with an approved plan. We also suggest that in laying out these grounds ample provision be made for the practice of floriculture in connection with such scheme of decorative planting as may be adopted.

The area most suitable for the location of the farm which we have recommended lies immediately north and east of the present Hospital or Home grounds, and on the north side of and running down to the E. & N. Railway tracks. It is almost triangular in shape, extending from a point just west of the entrance to the Hospital grounds in a north-easterly direction to the Craigflower Road, which street forms the boundary along the north-east side to a point about 600 feet west of the junction of Craigflower Road and Lampson Street. From this point a line running due south with a slight westerly deviation and running nearly parallel with Lampson Street forms the easterly boundary. The whole area referred to is shown on the accompanying plan enclosed by a red line, and contains approximately 165 acres, exclusive of the churchyard, the location of which is also indicated on the plan. The whole of the property referred to, excepting the churchyard, which was purchased years ago by the British Government, belongs to the Hudson's Bay Company, no part of it having as yet been sold to private individuals. This proposed farm comprises at the present time approximately 80 acres of cultivated land, 15 acres in medium to light timber, 35 acres partly cleared, and 35 acres broken land containing a good deal of rock. The extent of the cultivated area is shown on the accompanying plan enclosed by black dotted lines, and includes practically all of Blocks 7, 9, and 12, together with parts of Blocks 10, 11, and 13. The whole of Block 15 and the easterly part of Block 14 are wooded. Parts of Blocks 13 and 14, enclosed within the black dotted line, comprise the partly cleared area, whilst most of the broken and rock portions of the farm is located in the central and northerly parts of Blocks 10 and 11.

The soil of those parts now under cultivation is, for the most part, rich, sandy loam, shading in clay loam in the easterly part of Block 12, and is satisfactory for mixed-farming purposes. The central part of Blocks 13 and 14, now in a partially cleared condition and fairly well covered with natural grass, is somewhat higher than the district to the east and south of it, and is more of the nature of a gravelly loam, with occasional small-sized boulders. Whilst the soil is not quite so good as that in Blocks 9, 7, and 12, it can, nevertheless, all be brought under cultivation without any great difficulty, and can be worked at a time when it would not be possible to work the more low-lying parts in Blocks 7 and 12 adjoining it.

It would be desirable in developing this farm to have a certain portion of the partly cleared area in Blocks 13 and 14 brought under cultivation each year, the remaining part being used as a pasture and run for cattle or sheep. The total area under constant cultivation might eventually be maintained at about 100 to 110 acres. We think it very desirable that at least 10 acres of the present 15 acres of wooded land be preserved as a permanent wood lot to meet the needs of the institution in furnishing necessary wood and timber. The area in broken and waste land already referred to would be needed chiefly as a permanent pasture and run for sheep, as it is never advisable to allow sheep to graze in the same fields with cattle. About 5 acres of this broken land situated near to the farm buildings might with advantage be utilized as a run for poultry, and possibly about the same area for pigs, thus conserving the more arable land for the growing of crops.

In recommending the purchase of this entire block of 165 acres, we wish to call attention to the fact that, as no part of it has as yet been sold to private individuals, there would be no difficulty in taking over all street allowances. We have already been informed by the local agent for the Hudson's Bay Company that he has advocated the cancellation of the present plan of this and the adjacent block to the south. The street allowances shown on the accompanying plan exist only on paper. If this block of 165 acres be decided upon as the location for a supply farm in connection with the Esquimalt Soldiers' Home, we further recommend that the price paid do not exceed \$500 per acre.

In working out some further details as to the arrangement of areas, buildings, stock, and equipment, your Committee met in consultation with Mr. Wm. E. Scott, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, and Mr. W. T. McDonald, Live Stock Commissioner, both of whom have rendered valuable assistance. The following details are intended merely to suggest a workable basis on which your Commission would be warranted in proceeding, and are subject to change or amendment if our recommendation as to the purchase of this farm should be adopted. The laying-out of the farm, the location and making of plans for all buildings, and the purchase of stock and equipment are matters of sufficient importance to warrant the appointment of an advisory committee of thoroughly competent and practical men. We suggest that the farm in question be divided up as follows:—

	Acres.
1. Farm buildings, including a farm manager's house and private grounds, driveways, stockyards, and paddocks .....	5
2. Chicken-runs .....	5
3. Hog-runs .....	5
4. Orchard (tree and bush fruits) .....	5
5. Vegetable-gardens .....	5
6. Lanes and roadways .....	5
7. Permanent wood lot .....	10
8. Permanent sheep pasture, uncultivated land .....	25
9. Eight farm fields of 12½ acres each for a double four-year rotation .....	100
Total .....	165

## WORK TO BE TAKEN UP.

1. *Growing of Staple Grain and Fodder Crops*, including ensilage and field roots.
2. *Dairying*.—This will be considered the most important department of work, all other lines being brought into economic relation to it. We recommend starting with twelve good grade Holstein cows and a good pure-bred Holstein bull. The herd would gradually be brought up to about forty cows and the usual complement of young stock.
3. *Sheep-raising*.—Would recommend purchasing at the start about twenty good grade Shropshire ewes and a pure-bred Shropshire ram. This flock would be increased and maintained at about thirty ewes for breeding purposes.
4. *Hog-raising*.—Start with four Yorkshire sows and pure-bred boar, and increase to not more than six breeding sows. This would provide from sixty to eighty young pigs for fattening each year.
5. *Poultry-raising*.—Would recommend purchasing 500 day-old chicks to start with; Barred Rocks or White Wyandottes recommended. Should keep about 300 laying hens over winter and raise about 600 chicks per year.
6. *Horses*.—Two teams would be needed—one heavy-draught team of 1,500 lb. each, and one general-purpose team about 1,200 lb. each.
7. *Fruit-growing*.—A few of the most desirable varieties of apples, pears, plums, prunes, cherries, and apricots, and such bush-fruits as currants, gooseberries, raspberries, and loganberries, sufficient to meet the needs of the institution.
8. *Gardening*.—All regular table vegetables, with larger amounts of such staple crops as potatoes, beans, peas, cabbage, etc. Some trial plots, including grain, field roots, and fodder crops, as well as garden-fruck, should be established in order to discover those varieties best suited to this particular soil and climate.

The initial cost of the stock required, as already outlined, would be approximately as follows:—

12 cows at \$125 each .....	\$1,500 00
1 bull .....	500 00
20 ewes at \$10 each .....	200 00
1 ram .....	35 00
4 sows at \$20 each .....	80 00
1 boar .....	35 00
4 horses—heavy, \$400; general purpose, \$300.....	700 00
500 day-old chicks .....	100 00
Nursery stock and planting .....	150 00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$3,300 00</b>

The necessary farm buildings would consist of:—

- (1.) *Farm Manager's House*, which should have about six rooms and an extra room for an office. There is at the present time a comparatively new house on the western end of Section 10 which might be purchased from a party now holding a conditional lease of part of the farm proposed.
- (2.) *A Dairy-stable*.—Built for the accommodation of about twenty-four head and so arranged as to permit of enlargement for a larger herd. A dairy and milk-cooling house would be separate from but convenient to the dairy-stable. A silo and root-cellar would also be included. Storage for fodder would either be included above the dairy-stable or in an adjoining barn.
- (3.) *A Horse-stable*.—To have four single stalls, one double stall, a box stall, a harness and feed room, with storage for hay and straw overhead.
- (4.) *A Common Barn*.—For storing unthreshed grain with surplus hay and straw. The drive floor would ordinarily be used for storing the threshing outfit and wagons. It would be possible to make use of a barn already on the farm for this purpose.
- (5.) *Piggery*.—Consisting of about eight pens, with a feed-room and boiler.
- (6.) *Sheep-house*.—Open to the south and having a couple of closed pens, feeding-racks, etc., and storage for fodder.
- (7.) *Poultry-houses*.—One continuous house of six or eight compartments, with yard divisions, and an incubator and feed room at one end. Necessary colony houses and coops.
- (8.) *Farm Workshop and Machinery-house*.—Floored with concrete, with closed stairway leading to the carpenter and general wood-working shop upstairs. Small draughting-room adjoining carpenter-shop. Downstairs used chiefly for storing machinery and vehicles and having two smaller rooms, one equipped with a forge for iron-working and the other for cement-work.
- (9.) *Greenhouse*.—For the propagation of early vegetables and flowers, for use in the gardens and Hospital grounds. A plant working and storage room at one end, also used as a soil and potting room.
- (10.) *Water-storage Tank*.—For supply to all buildings, or else Esquimalt City water-supply installed.

The following is an estimate of the cost of the buildings necessary in connection with the farm:—

Farm manager's house .....	\$3,000 00
Dairy-stable (24 cows) .....	1,000 00
Horse-stable .....	500 00
Farm workshop, with machinery-house and equipment .....	900 00
Storage-barn for grain, straw, and surplus hay .....	300 00
Piggery .....	250 00
Poultry-house .....	250 00
Sheep-house .....	200 00
Dairy-house .....	300 00
Silo .....	200 00
Greenhouse .....	500 00
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	\$7,000 00

ESTIMATED COST OF FARM MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT.

Portable gasoline-engine (8 horse-power) .....	\$ 500 00
Double wagon box and rack .....	150 00
Light express wagon .....	120 00
Farm-truck .....	50 00
Dump-cart .....	65 00
Two sets double harness and cart harness .....	125 00
Seed-drill .....	100 00
Disk harrow .....	35 00
Drag-harrow .....	22 50
Gang-plough .....	55 00
Walking-plough .....	20 00
Field-roller .....	42 50
Manure-spreader .....	160 00
Soil-packer .....	45 00
Mowing-machine .....	67 50
Binder .....	185 00
Threshing-mill .....	250 00
Fanning-mill .....	45 00
Straw and corn cutter .....	150 00
Horse-rake .....	35 00
Hay-fork .....	30 00
Provender-mill .....	60 00
Cream separator and cans .....	200 00
Spray-pump .....	22 50
Garden equipment .....	50 00
Circular saw for wood-cutting .....	60 00
Miscellaneous .....	55 00
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Total cost of farm machinery and equipment .....	\$2,700 00

An initial expenditure for fencing and drainage might be estimated at \$1,500.

SUMMARY OF TOTAL COST.

165 acres @ \$500 per acre .....	\$ 82,500 00
Stock .....	3,300 00
Farm buildings .....	7,000 00
Farm machinery and equipment .....	2,700 00
Fencing and drainage .....	1,500 00
Improvement-work on present Hospital grounds and other miscellaneous expenditures .....	3,000 00
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Total .....	\$100,000 00

The success of the whole scheme will depend to a large extent upon the character and ability of the man appointed to manage the farm. In addition to the work of superintending farm operations, the manager will be associated personally with resident soldiers, on whom he would have a decided influence. Many of these will be interested in the various branches of the agricultural work carried on in connection with the Home, and no doubt will be glad of the opportunity to engage in such work as they may find suitable and interesting. To command the services, therefore, of a thoroughly reliable and competent manager, your Committee considers that it will be necessary to pay a salary of \$200 per month, with free residence; and it further considers it necessary to provide the manager with at least one assistant, who should be a specialist in gardening, fruit and poultry raising. The salary necessary to secure a capable assistant would be about \$150 per month.

In the suggested outline of farm buildings reference has been made to a farm workshop. This would provide facilities for farm carpentry, such as construction of chicken-houses, gates, troughs,

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farm utensils, etc., blacksmithing, cement-working, harness-repairing, and general farm mechanics, which would include the operation and care of the gasoline-engine. This workshop would be available to all resident soldiers. However, as the Convalescent Home will contain, undoubtedly, many permanently disabled soldiers, your Committee considers it desirable to include in this suggested scheme provision for a few work-rooms where such men could spend their time pleasantly and profitably. Industries and crafts, such as basket-work, brush-making, machine-knitting, toy-making, metal repoussé and bent-iron work, wood-carving, and even embroidery-work, have been successfully undertaken in similar Homes. The good effect of such employment on the health and character of the inmates is unquestionable, and there is every reason to believe that such work-rooms, pleasantly and conveniently situated in the grounds, would be used and would relieve the otherwise monotonous life of the Home. A building for the above purposes should provide a carpenter-shop, suitable for brush-making, toy-making, wood-carving, and general carpentry; a shop for basket-work and knitting-machines; and a shop for metalwork. The cost of such building and equipment should not exceed \$3,000.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

G. H. DEANE,  
J. W. GIBSON,  
*Committee.*

In conclusion, your Commission desire to express their indebtedness for suggestions and advice to those gentlemen who have been good enough to serve on our committees, the results of whose deliberations have been of material assistance to us in preparing the recommendations we have laid before you.

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VICTORIA, B.C.:

Printed by WILLIAM H. CULLIN, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty.

1916.