

# A NEW POLICY URGED TO DRAW POPULATION

## Confidential Memorandum From the Inter-Provincial Convention.

Ottawa, Dec. 19.—The confidential memorandum relating to land settlement, submitted for consideration to the inter-Provincial conference held at Ottawa last month by the Dominion Government, was to-day made available for publication. The memorandum does not outline a definitely settled policy on the part of the Dominion Government, but covers proposals the adoption of which, either as a whole or in part, depends in a large measure upon the action of the various Provincial Legislatures. This is clearly indicated by the sub-division of the memorandum into parts such as "general observations," "object of proposed policy," "outline of suggested policy," "notes on some details of settlement plans," etc.

### Past Policies Obsolete.

In that section of the memorandum devoted to general and introductory observations, the necessity for the adoption of progressive measures looking towards a continued rapid increase in the population of Canada is noted with the remark that "the policies heretofore pursued in an endeavor to secure suitable immigration have become obsolete and largely ineffective."

After referring to the reservation of crown lands for soldier settlement, the abandoned farms, the millions of acres of wild land, the title for which has passed into the hands of the Government, and the past lack of co-operation between the Federal and Provincial Governments as important factors in the problem, the memorandum says:

"Any comprehensive policy adopted with a view to securing a rapid increase in population and the settlement of land necessarily involves the expenditure of large sums of money and the use of State credit. If Canada is to succeed in competition with other countries in this field of work, the Provinces as well as the Dominion must stand prepared to pledge their credit and meet whatever expenditures are required. Any cheese-paring policy will be doomed to failure."

### Attract People to Farms.

The memorandum then outlines the objects of the proposed land settlement policy as follows:

1. The development of a nationwide sentiment in favor of increased agricultural settlement and production.
2. The encouragement of a movement from urban centres to rural districts.
3. The avoidance of overcrowding in our urban centres with a surplus of labor.
4. The securing of suitable settlers in large numbers for our vacant lands, including abandoned farms.
5. The creation of conditions whereby suitable settlers with small means (including tenants) may, in the course of time, become the owners of their farms.

### Prevent Unearned Increments.

The memorandum then outlines the suggested policy of land settlement the main features of which were announced when the inter-Provincial Conference was in session. In this connection it is suggested that steps should be taken to ascertain the lands available for settlement, and that the Provinces, as far as possible, should have uniform legislation for this purpose. To prevent owners from fixing an unreasonable or inflated selling price for their lands, each Province should provide for a special Provincial tax on wild lands, abandoned farms and leased farms. It is also suggested that each Province should fix a reasonable price for the lands required for settlement purposes.

### Federal Government's Duty.

The memorandum recommends that the Federal Government should continue to be responsible for the admission of immigrants to Canada. "One of the gravest situations confronting Canada," says the memorandum, "is the necessity for making suitable provision for the flood of British immigration that will move our way as soon as shipping is available. Unless steps are taken to

make certain that a large proportion of these immigrants go to the land they will crowd our large urban centres and bring about conditions of unemployment and unrest that will be exceedingly detrimental to Canada as a whole."

The memorandum assumes "for the purpose of discussion" only that each Province desiring to secure Federal co-operation must determine for itself a number of things, including the class of settlers to be assisted, the maximum assistance to be given, the terms upon which such assistance shall be given.

### **Ottawa Should Seek Immigrants.**

The memorandum assumes that the Federal Government should undertake the securing of settlers from Great Britain and from foreign countries (other than enemy) and that Provincial Governments should take charge of the prospective settler upon arrival in Canada. It is suggested that there should be created a Federal land settlement board comprising the Minister of Immigration and a representative from each of the Provinces. The board should be consultative and advisory and not administrative. It should meet at least once annually for the purpose of reviewing the working out of any policies that may be adopted for land settlement throughout Canada.

The final suggestion made by the memorandum is that there should be established in connection with the Department of **Immigration** and Colonization a social welfare bureau to assist in the care of immigrants.