

THOUSANDS OF ACRES OFFERED IN ONTARIO

All the Farms for Soldiers
Will Be Passed by
Inspector.

MEN ARE PROTECTED

Only Experienced Men Likely
to Be Placed This
Spring.

Indications are that within the next few days a very considerable number of Ontario farms will be placed at the disposal of the Soldier Settlement Board, to be taken over by returned men. The first advertisement of the board, asking for information of farms available for this purpose was inserted two days ago, and already a sheaf of answers has been received. The number of acres already offered runs up into the thousands, while each day's mail adds to the list. Many counties of the Province are already represented by the offers.

Before any of these farms will be taken over by the board they must be inspected by the Ontario Inspector, who will approve or disapprove of the price asked for them. If his report is favorable the farm will be at once listed as "approved" and within a very short time will become the home of a veteran who has decided to take to farming as his vocation.

Only Experienced Men Placed.

It was stated to-day by Mr. W. M. Jones, Ontario supervisor under the Act, that only experienced farmers will be placed on the farm this spring. There was little likelihood, he stated, that the qualifications committee would pass favorably for the present upon the application of any man who has not in the opinion of the board had sufficient farm experience or training to enable him to operate a farm with reasonable chance of success. At present not one applicant in four possesses the required qualifications which, according to the board's viewpoint, fit him to take up farming at once. This view of the matter, Mr. Jones explained, is taken for the protection of the man himself. It would be unfair to encourage a man unsuited to farming, to encumber himself with a large debt, and waste several of the best years of his life in a vocation to which he will ultimately find he is not suited.

Not Viewed as Reward.

"I would like it definitely understood that the Act is not passed with a view of rewarding the returned man for services rendered while overseas," said Mr. Jones. "The object is to help returned men to take up farming as a life work, and as a means of earning an independent livelihood, and to increase production. It is a mistaken idea that the benefits under it are offered in remuneration for their service at the front. The man who is qualified to go on the farm and engage in farming with a fair chance of success is the man the board is in a position to help now."