

BRING IN LEGISLATION FOR NEW LAND POLICY

Sir Thos. White Forecasts Government Action to Settle Soldier Problems.

IMMIGRATION POLICY

Acting-Premier Reviews Completion of First Year's Union Government.

Reviewing the work of the Union Government, which to-day completes its first year in office, Sir Thomas White, Acting Prime Minister, in a statement handed out to the press refers to the national registration of last June as having proved of use in providing valuable information for the work of reconstruction; the maintenance of the munitions industry at a high degree of efficiency by extensive credits; increased agriculture production through the Government's campaign; the additional taxation on war profits and income, and the expanding revenues of the Dominion, and the evidence of prosperity of the people in the big success of the last Victory bond campaign; the \$25,000,000 made available by the Government for loans to the Provinces to provide better housing conditions; the successful operations of the Food Board, and the authorization by the Government of the investigation by local municipalities of the high cost of living with a view to regulating excessive profits, and the adjustment of labor disputes among railwaymen by a Canadian board of adjustment.

Enforced M.S.A. Impartially.

With reference to the Military Service Act and some other matters in connection with which Sir Thomas White takes credit on behalf of the Government, the Acting Premier's statement is as follows:

"The Government has vigorously and impartially enforced the Military Service Act. As a result there were obtained over eighty thousand men as reinforcements for our forces overseas. There were also called up but released on compassionate grounds, or for other adequate reasons, twenty-five thousand men. The Military police, under the Department of the Militia, have vigorously pressed the apprehension and prosecution of deserters. Since the armistice men are no longer required for military service, but the Government is continuing proceedings against those in default under the Military Service Act with a view to their being brought to justice and punished for their offences. Serious difficulties in the enforcement of the law have been encountered in certain sections because of trafficking in exemptions and leave certificates. These cases are being fully investigated in order that all who have been found guilty of wrong-doing may be brought to trial without delay."

Established Shipbuilding.

"An outstanding feature of the Government's policy during the year has been the establishment of a great shipbuilding industry. Over forty steel vessels for Government account are now under order, the total estimated program for this and the coming year aggregating over sixty million dollars. The activities of all Canadian shipyards are being maintained at their highest capacity, furnishing employment for an army of workmen and sustaining many subsidiary enterprises of an important national character.

"A Soldiers' Land Settlement Board has been appointed, and great progress made in developing a policy under which they will be aided in establishing themselves upon the land.

New Legislation Forecasted.

"In the early part of the present year co-operative relations were established between labor and the

Government in working out war problems.

"A special committee on which both employers and employes are represented has been appointed to consider and recommend measures to improve the relations of labor and capital, and labor has been given representation on the Labor Sub-Committee of the Cabinet and on other boards and committees since appointed by the Government.

"A comprehensive **immigration** and land settlement policy has been worked out by the Minister of Immigration and Colonization, and the co-operation of the Governments of the Provinces has been secured. The necessary legislation will be introduced at the approaching session of Parliament to carry into effect this policy.

"The Government has completed the purchase of the Canadian Northern Railway and consolidated all the Government-owned railways, including the Intercolonial and Transcontinental Railways, under a board of directors of business men, who will operate the roads in the national interest.

To Provide Employment.

"The Minister of Railways has during the year contracted for 185 locomotives, 8,500 freight cars, and one hundred thousand tons of rails. Orders are now being placed for two hundred thousand additional tons of rails and one hundred colonist cars. To provide employment during the period of demobilization the department is proceeding with the construction of the Welland Ship Canal, work on which has been shut down because of the war. In the same way work will be resumed on the final section of the Trent Canal.

"To promote national efficiency and economy the Government has prohibited the importation or manufacture and inter-Provincial sale of intoxicating liquors for the period of the war and for one year thereafter.

"The Government has passed legislation putting the whole civil service under the Civil Service Commission, and entirely eliminating political patronage in connection with appointments to the public service."