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PROVIDE FOR DEFECTIVE AND THE CRIMINAL

Policy to be Adopted by Provincial Government Regarding Unfortunates.

NEW HOMES TO BE BUILT AT ESSONDALE

VICTORIA, Nov. 20.—Definite co-ordination of departmental policy in the matter of corrective and curative establishments for British Columbia's boys is now announced by the Oliver Government. For some time past the care of the mentally defective and the incorrigible boy has engaged the attention of the responsible departments. As a result of their collaboration the Hon. J. D. McLean, Minister of Education and Provincial Secretary, and the Hon. J. W. deB. Farris, Attorney General and Minister of Labor, have reached a decision to erect an institution for the exclusive care of the mentally defective boys on government property at Essondale. Its design will follow the unit plan with accommodation for 150 children, while provision for their segregation into classes adapted to the mental capacity of each will be included. Likewise, in view of the unsatisfactory state of the present buildings now doing duty as the Boys' Industrial School at Point Grey a new institution on the cottage home system will transfer the care of the incorrigible boys to Essondale.

The result of the joint policy of the two departments will be the complete isolation of the mentally defective and the consequent removal of all disadvantages attendant upon indiscriminate and often unwitting housing together of both the normal subject and his less fortunate brother, as well as the avoidance of expensive dual management. For it must be understood that, although the two institutions will be distinct and separate individual units, by their concentration at Essondale it will be practicable to utilize the same medical staff, the same farm staff and the same supervisory machinery for both institutions. In brief, the new arrangement is fully expected to yield higher efficiency and tend to greater economy, while, judged solely from the financial standpoint, the necessity for progressive preventive measures is best understood when it is realized that this province pays annually \$600,000 for the care of its insane population.

It is proposed that one of the units shall be set apart from the rest for the use of the mentally sound but incorrigible boys at present housed in the Industrial School at Point Grey. Arrangements will be of such a nature, however, as to prohibit association between the incorrigible and the mentally defective, the latter being placed in his proper grade in the new institution. It should be noted, too, that for the time being the new institution will concern itself with male subnormals, only as the Government considers the female problem well provided for, by the Girl's Industrial School at Vancouver.

One of the later developments of the plan is the attachment of a competent medical man to one of the hospitals of the Province through whose hands would pass all mentally deficient suspects, juvenile and adult.

Many Neglected Cases.

In explanation of this new program both Ministers remind the people of the Province that for many years in British Columbia there has been a well defined sentiment in favor of a policy that would lend itself to the more intelligent care and education of the mentally defective child. It is a well known fact, moreover, that there are probably several hundreds of these children in British Columbia to day, who are exposed to the consequences attendant upon indifference to their condition. Thus it is contended by the Oliver Government that these unfortunates can be cared for and rescued from useless lives; for the melancholy fact remains that it is very largely from the ranks of such children that the inmates of jails, asylums and refuge home for unmarried mothers are recruited.

Appreciating the seriousness of this situation from the economic as well as from the essentially financial standpoint, Dr. Maclean invited Dr. Clarke, professor of

mental hygiene at Toronto University, to visit the province, investigate the mental condition of inmates in the various institutes, and report his findings. This Dr. Clarke did during the summer months and his conclusions were of such an enlightening, if startling, character that immediate action was decided upon.

Isolating the Defective.

Under the system which is now to be replaced children of all types are indiscriminately congregated without any special regard for their mental condition. It is a state of affairs, of course, very largely imposed by the somewhat tardy evolution of mental hygiene as far as this province is concerned, hindered, it is true, by the more or less widespread indifference of the State to its unfortunates.

Nor is the mental defective a subject to be treated by any special standard of education. Many are extremely slow at school. Text book tutelage means nothing to them. On the other hand many of them can be taught to do useful mechanical work. Moreover, until a few months ago no institution in this province possessed facilities to care for the imbecile. An attempt was made at the mental hospital at Essondale to segregate the unfortunate youngster from the insane adult. Lack of accommodation, however, prevented any material progress. During last summer a cottage capable of accommodating seventy-five children was erected and at the present

(continued on Page Four.)

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Synopsis of Land Act Amendments

Minimum price of first-class land reduced to \$5 an acre; second-class to \$3.00 an acre.

Pre-emption now confined to surveyed lands only.

Records will be granted covering only land suitable for agricultural purposes and which is non-timber land.

Partnership pre-emption abolished, but parties of not more than four may arrange for adjacent pre-emptions with joint residence, but each making necessary improvements on respective claims.

Pre-emptors must occupy claims for five years and make improvements to value of \$10 per acre, including clearing and cultivation of at least 1/2 acre, before receiving Crown Grant.

Where pre-emptor in occupation not less than 2 1/2 years, and has made proportionate improvements, he may, because of ill-health, or other cause, be granted intermediate certificate of improvement and transfer his claim.

Records without permanent residence may be issued, provided applicant makes improvements to extent of \$200 per annum and records same each year. Failure to make improvements or record same will operate as forfeiture. Title cannot be obtained in less than 5 years, and improvements of \$10.00 per acre, including 1/2 acre cleared and cultivated, and residence of at least 2 years are required.

Pre-emptor holding Crown grant may record another pre-emption, if he requires land in conjunction with his farm, without actual occupation, provides statutory improvements, roads and residence maintained on Crown granted land.

Unsurveyed areas, not exceeding 20 acres, may be leased as homestead, title to be obtained after fulfilling residential and improvement conditions.

For grazing and industrial purposes areas exceeding 40 acres may be leased by one person or company.

Mill, factory or industrial sites on timber land not exceeding 40 acres may be purchased; conditions include payment of stumpage.

Natural hay meadows inaccessible by existing roads may be purchased conditional upon construction of a road to them. Rebate of one-half of cost of road, not exceeding half of purchase price, is made.

PRE-EMPTORS' FREE GRANTS ACT.
The scope of this Act is enlarged to include all persons joining and serving with His Majesty's Forces. The time within which the heirs or devisees of a deceased pre-emptor may apply for title under this Act is extended from for one year from the death of such person, as formerly, until one year after the conclusion of the present war. This privilege is also made retroactive.

No fees relating to pre-emptions are due or payable by soldiers on pre-emptions recorded after June 25, 1918. Taxes are remitted for five years.

Provision for return of moneys accrued, due and been paid since August 4, 1914, on account of payments, fees or taxes on soldiers' pre-emptions.

Interest on agreements to purchase town or city lots held by members of Allied Forces, or dependents, acquired direct or indirect, remitted from enlistment to March 21, 1920.

SUB-PURCHASERS OF CROWN LANDS.
Provision made for issuance of Crown grants to sub-purchasers of Crown Lands, acquiring rights from purchasers who failed to complete purchase, involving forfeiture, on fulfilment of conditions of purchase, interest and taxes. Where sub-purchasers do not claim whole of original parcel, purchase price due and taxes may be distributed proportionately over whole area. Applications must be made by May 1, 1920.

GRAZING.
Grazing Act, 1919, for systematic development of livestock industry provides for grazing districts and range administration under Commission.

Annual grazing permits issued based on numbers ranged; priority for established owners. Stock-owners may form Associations for range management. Free, or partially free, permits for settlers, campers or travellers, up to ten head.

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TIMBER SALE X 1676.

Sealed tenders will be received by the Minister of Lands not later than noon on the 27th day of November, 1919, for the purchase of Licence X 1676, to cut 3,574,000 feet of Spruce, Hemlock, Cedar, Cottonwood and Balsam and 14,680 Hemlock ties on an area situated near Usk, Skeena River, Range 5, Coast District.

Two (2) years will be allowed for removal of timber.

Further particulars of the Chief Forester, Victoria, B. C., or District Forester, Prince Rupert, B. C.



TIMBER SALE X 1889.

Sealed tenders will be received by the Minister of Lands not later than noon on the 2nd day of December, 1919, for the purchase of Licence X 1889, to cut 1,082,000 feet of Spruce, Hemlock and Cedar on an area situated in Juskatla Inlet, Queen Charlotte District.

One (1) year will be allowed for removal of timber.

Further particulars of the Chief Forester, Victoria, B. C., or District Forester, Prince Rupert, B. C.



TIMBER SALE X1884.

Victoria, B.C., Nov. 4th, 1919. Sealed tenders will be received by the District Forester, Prince Rupert, not later than noon on the 20th day of November, 1919, for the purchase of Licence X1884, to cut 310,000 feet of Spruce, Hemlock, Balsam and Cedar and 1500 Lin. Ft. of Hemlock Piling on an area adjoining Lot 193, Cousins Inlet, R.3, Coast District.

Two years will be allowed for the removal of timber.

Further particulars of the Chief Forester, Victoria, B.C., or District Forester, Prince Rupert, B.C.

TIMBER SALE X1955.

Victoria, B.C., Nov. 4th, 1919. Sealed tenders will be received by the District Forester, Prince Rupert, not later than noon on the 20th day of November, 1919, for the purchase of Licence X1955, to cut 350,000 feet of Spruce on an area situated on Thurston Harbour, Talin-Kwan Island, Queen Charlotte District.

One year will be allowed for the removal of timber.

Further particulars of the Chief Forester, Victoria, B.C., or District Forester, Prince Rupert, B.C.

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