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POST-WAR REHABILITATION COUNCIL. INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON AGR. & LAND... Minutes of meetings.

PABC

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Minutes of a meeting of the Inter-departmental Advisory Committee on Agriculture and Land Settlement held in the Parliament Buildings, September 11, 1942.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 3:05 p.m.

Present:
- W. Turnbull, Chairman
- Thos. Cole
- E. Davis
- Arthur Dixon
- F. C. Green
- E. O. MacGinnis
- J. B. Munro
- C. D. Orchard
- W. H. Robertson
- E. G. Rowebottom
- Newman Taylor
- Dr. J. F. Walker
- W. S. Latta, ~~Acting Secretary~~ F. S. Mulholland, Secretary.

At the outset Hon. Mr. Perry outlined to the meeting the ground covered by the Rehabilitation Council and its contacts with the Reconstruction Committee in Ottawa.

The Minister made it clear that there would be no overlapping between the work done by the Province and that of the Dominion.

Mr. Perry then retired and a general discussion took place, after which the Committee considered in turn a number of the proposals submitted to the Rehabilitation Board on the subject of land utilization. Some of these proposals were thought to be worthy of investigation and it was suggested that original briefs of same submitted be secured for further study by the departmental representatives interested.

A copy of correspondence between the Minister and Prof. L. S. Klinck appertaining to the collection and bringing together of all basic data on soils and crop production within the Province was considered. It was agreed that this matter be left over until the next meeting to give the representatives of the Departments particularly concerned; namely, Department of Agriculture and Survey Branch, an opportunity to go into the matter further to find whether there is a staff member available to carry out this work. It was agreed that such a collation of data would be of value to the Committee in its work.

The meeting then adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

The next meeting at the call of the Chairman.

Chairman

Acting Secretary

Minutes of a meeting of the Inter-Departmental Advisory Committee on Agriculture and Land Settlement held in the Parliament Buildings, November 2, 1942.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 10:35 a.m.

Present:

W. Turnbull, Chairman, Messrs. Cole, Dixon, Green, MacGinnis, Munro, Orchard, Robertson, Rowebottom, Taylor and W. S. Latta, Acting Secretary.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read by the Secretary. Moved by Mr. MacGinnis, seconded by Mr. Orchard, the minutes be adopted as read.

The following matters were reported upon by the Chairman:

1. That Mr. C. C. Kelly has been appointed by the Department of Agriculture to collect basic data on soils and crop production as recommended by Prof. L. S. Klinck in his letter to the Minister dated July 29, 1942.

2. That briefs submitted to the Council by the Minister concerning agricultural matters were sent to the respective District Agriculturists for investigation and report. Reports had been received from E. C. Hunt, Nelson, J. Manning, Prince George, and C. B. Twigg, Creston, but are being held until all are received.

3. That Japanese lands in B. C. have been turned over to Mr. Gordon Murchison, Director of Soldier Settlement, Ottawa, for administration.

4. Synopsis of the Guelph Conference report was discussed and letter from the Secretary of the Conference read.

5. The matter of blueberry growing on Lulu Island is approved by G. E. W. Clarke, Horticulturist, Department of Agriculture and is progressing.

6. That investigation into the feasibility of draining Pemberton Meadows was being carried out by Mr. George Spence, Director of Rehabilitation, Federal Department of Agriculture, Regina, Sask.

7. Attention of the members was drawn to brief submitted by H. Bowman, Prince George, regarding development of Central B. C. lands along the line of the Canadian National Railway.

8. Lands at Seymour Arm: Mr. Newman Taylor reported results of reconnaisance survey by Forest Branch carried out recently. The report shows that there is not sufficient good land to warrant a soil survey.

9. A comparison of the acreages acquired and prices paid by the Soldier Settlement Board in the different Provinces after the last war was read.

The draft interim report was discussed at length item by item by members present and an amended form is attached to these minutes.

The Chairman suggested that Section 45 of the Land Settlement and Development Act be amended to include British Columbia enlisted men returning from service in the present war.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

The next meeting at call of the chair.

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Chairman

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Acting Secretary

Minutes of meeting held in the Cedar Room, Parliament Buildings, November 16, 1943, at 2:45 p.m.

Present: W. Turnbull, Chairman, Messrs. Orchard, McGinnis, Walker, Green, Munro, Robertson, Cole, Davis, Taylor and Latta.

Minutes of previous meeting, July 16, 1943, adopted as read.

Mr. Taylor, Chairman of Sub-committee, presented maps showing areas selected by Federal authorities for investigation as to their suitability for soldier settlement.

Mr. Taylor reported that the sub-committee on land examination had gone over survey reports on 75 areas throughout the Province, 12 of which had been considered worthy of further examination.

He submitted to the meeting reports on three of the twelve areas, namely, Canim Lake Section, Sheridan Lake Section and Camp Lister. The first two were reported upon as unsuitable for ordinary farm purposes. Camp Lister was an irrigation proposition. Four other sections are ready for examination and five are in process of being statused.

Mr. Taylor expressed the opinion that the status work being done by the Department of Lands should prove valuable in providing information for intending settlers.

Mr. Munro stated that the Soil Survey Committee had recommended to the Minister further soil surveys south of Prince George to Soda Creek, in the Peace River District and around Ft. St. James covering one million acres. These surveys definitely would link up with the work being done by Mr. Taylor's sub-committee on selection of areas suitable for settlement.

He further stated that 2,600,000 acres had been soil-surveyed; 900,000 acres of which was arable land. Much of this, possibly about 25%, was alienated and already under crop.

Discussion took place on the possibility of a great demand for homesites and small acreages. Mr. Davis suggested several areas in the interior of the Province, all requiring irrigation. The possibility of selecting lands on Vancouver Island where irrigation is not necessary was also discussed.

A general discussion on irrigable farm lands took place and it was suggested by Dr. Walker that arrangements should be made for surveys of irrigable areas.

Mr. Munro moved, seconded by Mr. Taylor, that a sub-committee composed of Messrs. Davis, Walker, Robertson and Latta be appointed to investigate and report on irrigable areas. The motion was adopted.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

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Chairman

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Acting Secretary

Inter-Departmental Advisory Committee on Agriculture and Land Settlement.

Minutes of meeting held in the Parliament Buildings on July 16th, 1943, at 2.45 p.m.

Present: W. Turnbull, Chairman; Messrs. Dixon, Gawthrop, Green, Lane, Munro, Orchard, Robertson, Rowebottom, Taylor and Mulholland.

Minutes of previous meeting, December 11th, 1942, adopted as read.

The Chairman informed the meeting that the House of Commons Committee on Reconstruction, of which Mr. J.G.Turgeon, M.P. for Cariboo is Chairman, had recommended to the Government that the "Prairie Farms' Rehabilitation Act" be made applicable to the whole Dominion as the "Farms Rehabilitation Act".

It was suggested that this Act might be applied in B.C. to cover the cost of aerial photographic survey, and the following resolution, moved by Mr. Green, seconded by Mr. Rowebottom, was carried:-

> "That this Committee recommends that all promising agricultural areas in the Province be covered by vertical aerial photography from an altitude of not exceeding 15,000 feet, as a preliminary to topographic mapping: and that the Dominion and Province cooperate in the necessary ground work required for topographic maps with a contour interval not exceeding 100 feet, to be used as a basis for more detailed soil examination".

Mr. Taylor informed the Committee that the Lands Branch has a list compiled during several years, of surveyed areas throughout the Province, which have been recommended for settlement; also rough information about their condition. He suggested that it might form a basis for selection of definite areas suitable for further survey.

After general discussion on the subject of selection of settlement areas, the Chairman appointed a sub-committee to deal with:

(1) compilation of a list of agricultural areas available, with nature of survey information on hand about each:

(2) recommendation of definite areas for settlement:

(3) procedure desirable to bring about a satisfactory survey before the end of the war of suitable districts for the settlement of veterans and others.

And to report back to this Committee at its next meeting.

Sub-committee: Messrs. Taylor, Chairman
Munro,
Green,
Robertson,
Latta,
Orchard.

Mr. Orchard explained that owing to the summer pressure of forestry work he might not be able to give much time to this committee and the Chairman suggested that Mr. Melrose act for him if necessary

After general discussion of the possibilities made available by the "Veterans' Land Act", with especial reference to agreements with the Federal Government under Section 35 of that Act, it was decided to postpone recommendations on this subject until the above sub-committee's report has been received.

The Chairman introduced Mr. Fredericson, School Inspector, East Kootenay, who expressed the opinion that any land settlement scheme should take account of education: he saw a danger of creating a peasant class with sub-standard living conditions, competing with Orientals and European immigrants used to a low standard of living. He recommended also that rural children should be taught fundamentals of scientific agriculture by cooperation between the Agriculture and Education Departments.

Sample Land Utilization Maps of the Nechako Valley Survey last year were submitted and some points of this survey briefly described. Mr. Rowebottom drew the Committee's attention to the quality of these maps, a new type for B.C., and recommended that such surveys should be carried out in future of all prospective settlement areas.

The Committee adjourned 4.30 p.m.

Chairman

F.D. Mulholland

Secretary

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