

Mr. MEIGHEN: This section was held over at the suggestion of my hon. friend that I might give consideration to the point he raised as to admitting men who were still in hospitals and not discharged as a result. I am taking care of that by an amendment to section 63.

Mr. McMASTER: Will the benefits of this Bill extend to domiciled citizens of Canada who at the outbreak of the war joined the armies of the Allies and served in the field with such armies?

Mr. MEIGHEN: Yes.

Amendment agreed to.

Section as amended agreed to.

On section 15—free soldier grants:

Mr. MEIGHEN: I beg to move to insert in line 41 of page 7 after the word "on" the words "or the purchase of." Clause 15 as it stands provides that a soldier entry shall not be granted to the man who is in receipt of the other assistance from the board on private property, that is to say, a man who had obtained a loan on his own land, or a loan with which he was buying land. We do not intend to give the double assistance. An exception is made where the board decides that for special reasons it can be done—to cover the case of a man, say, who gets a small advance on a very small acreage, perhaps between his soldier entry and the lake, where the whole would not make anything more than an ordinary farm. The section as it stood was not wide enough to cover the case of the man who had bought land from the board at all. It only covered the case of a man who had got a loan on land he owned. This amendment will make the section wide enough to cover the case of the man who had got land from the board by purchase. We do not intend to give the double assistance.

Amendment agreed to.

Section as amended agreed to

On section 25—limitations as to advances to settler to discharge encumbrances:

Mr. MEIGHEN: In view of the representations of various members of the committee at the last sitting, I have decided to recommend to the committee that the amount permissible to be loaned to a man who owns his land for the clearing of encumbrances thereon be raised from \$2,500 to \$3,500. I therefore beg to move that the word "three" be substituted for the word "two" in line 8 of page 12.

[Mr Maharg.]

Mr. J. E. ARMSTRONG: What position would a returned soldier be in who had purchased a farm in the older settled part of the country a year ago and was seeking assistance from the board?

Mr. MEIGHEN: He could get a loan up to \$3,500 to pay off encumbrances on that farm. He could also get \$1,000 for improvements and \$2,000 for stock, provided he does not go over \$5,000 altogether. That limitation is placed so that the board will not be mainly a loaning concern instead of a settlement concern.

Mr. MAHARG: I am pleased the minister has gone as far as he has, but I cannot understand why there should be any discrimination between the man who purchased a farm before going overseas and the man who is now securing a farm. There should be no discrimination whatever between them as regards assistance from the board. As a matter of fact, the class I first mentioned are the ones who have made the sacrifices financially, and they should receive the first consideration.

Amendment agreed to.

Section as amended agreed to.

On section 59—power of board to estimate land apart from buildings, and to vary amount as to balance due:

Mr. MEIGHEN: In the case of clause 59, I moved the amendment at the last meeting of the House but held the clause over so that members could consider them. One amendment I fully explained at the last sitting. It enables the board to divert not only from the improvement loan to the stock loan, so long as the maximum is not exceeded, but from the stock loan to the improvement loan. The second amendment is of very great consequence in British Columbia. In British Columbia, in fruit land farming, there is not very much use for stock. What they have use for principally is not equipment and stock but fruit trees and this amendment enables the board to divert from the stock and equipment loan to the land itself provided there are fruit trees on the land, the fruit tree improvement of the land taking the place of stock. Of course, the maximum cannot be exceeded in any case. It enables the fruit farmer of British Columbia to have a substitute for the advantage that the prairie farmer gets in the way of stock assistance, the substituted assistance in his case being the security of the fruit tree improvements on his location.