

last November are practically out of feed for their live stock, have no seed grain on hand nor the means to get it.

Thanks to local help I am not in quite that predicament, but I have been talking to several neighbouring farmers, and they told me that as soon as I was assured a reasonable chance of staying on, and that the amount of payments would be so revised that I would have a reasonable chance of meeting them, that I might take some bags and they would give me some seed grain, but they wanted to be sure I was to get the benefit and that it would not be seized to help cover up the deficit from buying when everything was at its height. I feel sure that unless something is done in the next two weeks, or before seeding commences, that several around here are going to notify the S.S.B. that they cannot support their families from the income from the cows and hens after buying the extra feed, and so have decided to quit and work out. The majority seem intent on going to the towns or with building contractors.

They expect to lose all they paid down and that there will still be large deficits. I believe an early announcement that those so situated might sell part of the present live stock to buy feed for the rest and seed grain where necessary, or that seed grain and feed would be supplied at once, would prevent a good deal of loss and trouble, and that the best of them would try a little harder to hang on and weather it out.

I know you have a great deal of very important business to transact, but doubt if any is much more urgent than at least an immediate investigation into this matter. The boys are thoroughly sick of red tape, but have all the old pep when they see a thing worth while.

This is an example of the letters received, and it also reveals the feeling that is prevalent among the soldier settlers. I do hope that something will be done at this session of Parliament with a view to relieving the serious situation in which these men are placed. In the constituency of North Simcoe, which I have the honour to represent, there are a number of soldier settlers. This letter which I have just read was entirely unexpected. It does not come from any soldier settler in my riding, but it brings its own message, and is a statement of the actual condition in which these men are placed.

In reference to the re-establishment, medical treatment, and vocational training for former members of the Canadian forces, I feel that nothing should be omitted which might be done to safeguard the interests and promote the general welfare of our returned men. I would especially urge that immediate provision be made for those classes of ex-service men who have been rendered unemployable through war service, and who are at present without adequate means of support; also that suitable provision be made for their dependents as well as the dependents of those reported

missing. This is a matter that closely touches me in my relationship with the riding I represent. We have many in that constituency of the class I have mentioned, and I feel that we cannot do too much for them.

Another matter to which I wish to refer is one which possibly, I think, will not be very popular with hon. members. In that, however, I may be surprised. It affords me great pleasure, in speaking on the subject of economy, to note that the Government has taken into serious consideration the question of retrenchment in the administration of the public affairs of the country, I hope that the bill to be submitted regarding the Department of Militia and Defence, and the co-ordination of the various branches of defence forces under one ministerial head, may become law. We all realize the very urgent need of strict economy in the management of the affairs of our country at this time. In this connection may I be permitted to suggest that a good place to start on the road to practical economy in public life is with our own individual personal interests. It seems to me that we might well give proof of our sincerity in this matter by introducing legislation to reduce our present sessional indemnity from \$4,000 to the former amount of \$2,500, and I for one am prepared to support the Government on the introduction of such a legislation. I am fully aware that the labourer is worthy of his hire and I realize also that the cheapest man so far as salary is concerned is often the dearest man in the end when ability and efficiency are taken into account. Nevertheless, I am of the opinion that the increase of \$1,500 in the sessional indemnity was not justifiable at the time it was made, nor is it justifiable in the face of existing market conditions as we know them to be. As I have said, therefore, I for one am prepared to support any legislation brought forward to reduce the indemnity. I may add that this suggestion is an entirely voluntary one on my part; I am in no way under obligation to my constituency to act in the matter, and they have not at any time asked me to bring it up or even suggested that I should do so. My constituents elected me not because of any pre-election promises, for I never made any, but because they were thoroughly tired of what they had been receiving in the past and were looking forward to obtaining a government by the people, an administration which would