

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: This is very important legislation, and I would suggest, and I suppose my hon. friend will have no objection, that we do not go into the details to-night. Apart from the loan of money which is contemplated, the Government, as my hon. friend for Welland suggests, is offering nothing more to the soldier than to anyone else who wants to become a settler. I certainly do not quarrel with that. I think it should be well understood that no grants should be made to a returned soldier or anyone else except upon the condition that he becomes an actual settler. I would suggest to my hon. friend, if he will allow me, that he have a map prepared of the land now available for settlement. It is very important to know where these lands are situated. As my hon. friend has stated, they can only be in the three prairie provinces, and my impression is that at the present time we have very little left of Government homestead land. There is a great deal of land still in the hands of private people, but of the land which belongs to the Government and is fit for settlement, my impression is that the acreage is very, very limited indeed. It will be interesting to know just how much there is of this land available for settlement. When I speak of prairie lands I do not apprehend that at the present stage of development in Canada we can expect any returned soldier to go into the bush and clear land there. We must expect that he will want prairie land. I think it is advisable that we should also know the distance these lands are from railways. It would not be fair to offer land beyond a certain radius from the railways to any soldier for settlement. Perhaps it is contemplated that there are some lands which, while not actually prairie lands, might still be made available for agriculture with very little labour. I wish my hon. friend would also have prepared a map of such lands to be laid on the table of the House, and with this information before us we shall certainly be very happy to give his Bill our best consideration. I understand from what my hon. friend says that he proposes nothing new beyond the loan of money.

Mr. ROCHE: And agricultural training for the inexperienced.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: I do not understand exactly what is meant by that.

Mr. ROCHE: Similar training to what they are providing in Australia. We will

have some agriculture training farms for the inexperienced soldiers who desire to receive agriculture instruction before locating on their holdings, or the instruction may be given on a private farm.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: That would be just as available to the ordinary homesteader as to the returned soldier, but that is a feature we can very well discuss at a later stage. Do I understand that the loan of money applies exclusively to the returned soldier?

Mr. ROCHE: Yes. I may say that I have already prepared a map such as my right hon. friend has asked for, and I meant to place it on the Table at the Committee stage. It shows the lands available for settlement within ten, fifteen and twenty miles of a railroad.

Mr. BUCHANAN: I would like to point out that it is very important to know whether it is the intention to locate the soldiers on Dominion land. At the present time we have a serious railway problem to solve, and if we put the soldiers who are desirous of availing themselves of this proposition on Dominion lands, we shall be forced to place them on lands at a great distance from railways. Then they will demand railway service, and we will be compelled to build new railway lines to meet their needs. At the present time there are very few, if any, Dominion lands available close to railroads, but there are lands occupied on lease and used as Indian reserves that would suit this particular purpose if these lands could be exchanged for Dominion lands further away from a railway. I know that in the southern part of Alberta some of the most desirable land is held as Indian reserves and on lease. I want to see the Indians treated fairly, but in nearly every case these reserves are far too large for the number of Indians now occupying them. In fact they are using hardly any of this land for agricultural or grazing purposes. In some cases the lands are leased to ranchers and others for grazing purposes. But if we want to attract the soldiers to the land, the farms they are going to occupy should be convenient to the railroad and to market facilities and as well settled as possible, and we cannot offer them what are known at present as Dominion lands. I do not know of very desirable Dominion lands in any part of Alberta, except the extreme northern part. True, railroads are going in there at the present time. But in the other parts of Alberta—and I assume