

Mr. TURRIF: And, of course, the Government have not had any further word from the United States as to whether they will accept that as satisfactory or not. Now, in conclusion, I move the resolution which I have already read. I hope the Government will see its way clear to carry out the idea expressed in this amendment, in order to satisfy the farmers throughout Canada that it is the intention of the Government that wheat shall remain on the free list and shall not be subject to an Order in Council or to automatic reversion to the dutiable list on the ending of the war. If this is done, the farmer will have some inducement to put in larger crops. Not this year, for nothing that this House can do now will effect the size of the crop of the present year. But the season from the latter part of May to the middle of July is the time when, in the West, new ground is broken for wheat for the following year. If it is made clear that wheat is on the free list permanently, you will have a largely increased acreage broken during the present spring and summer and a largely increased acreage sown to wheat during the next year which will be a benefit not only to Canada but to Great Britain, the Allies and the whole world. It was stated here today that there was a possibility of there being a food famine in the world on account of this terrible war and if anything can be done to increase production it ought to be done. There is nothing that can be done that will have as good an effect in increasing production as having it made absolutely clear to the farmers that wheat is on the free list permanently and that it is not to be taken off either by Order in Council, or automatically, as soon as the war ceases.

On motion of Mr. Meighen the debate was adjourned.

On motion of Sir Thomas White the House adjourned at 10.30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 25, 1917.

The House met at Three o'clock, the Speaker in the Chair.

RETURNED SOLDIERS.

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

Sir HERBERT AMES (Montreal, St. Antoine) presented the following Preliminary [Sir Thomas White.]

Report of the Special Committee of the House of Commons in reference to the care of and provision for returned soldiers.

The Special Committee, appointed to consider, inquire into and report upon the reception, treatment, care, training and re-education of the wounded, disabled and convalescent returned soldiers of the Canadian Expeditionary Forces, in accordance with a resolution adopted by the committee, beg leave to present to the House the following Preliminary Report:

Your Committee, pursuant to the resolution passed by the House on Wednesday, 7th February last, appointing nine members to constitute the Committee, met on the said 7th February, when the following members, namely, Sir Herbert Ames, Hon. Charles Marcell, Hon. F. B. McCurdy, Mr. W. S. Middlebro, Mr. F. F. Pardee, Mr. Duncan C. Ross and Mr. Donald Sutherland were present and elected Sir Herbert Ames as Chairman of the Committee. The Committee at once proceeded to consider what information could be secured regarding existing agencies of assistance given to disabled returned soldiers and instructed the Clerk of the Committee to request the attendance of certain gentlemen of the Military Hospitals Commission and of the Militia Department to appear and give evidence before the Committee.

On Thursday, 22nd February, when your Committee again met, the Chairman's attention was directed to what the members of the Committee considered a technical difficulty. Your Committee had not been given power to send for persons and papers, to report from time to time, to adjourn from place to place, to print for the use of the Committee the evidence taken, nor could it ask leave to do so owing to the extended adjournment of the House. Obviously, there was but one course to follow in order to conform strictly with the rule. All nine members present considered that the inquiry was urgent and that it was the undoubted desire of the House that the Committee should hold immediate sessions. Your Committee thereupon resolved to proceed with the inquiry as if it had been granted leave by the House to send for persons and papers, to report from time to time, to adjourn from place to place and to print for the use of the Committee the evidence taken. Notwithstanding this, your Committee, during the adjournment, has held ten business sessions at which important testimony was given and statements and papers were submitted by representatives of Returned Soldiers' Associations, Provincial Soldiers Aid Commissions, Military Hospitals, Convalescent Homes and Benevolent Societies from every province of the Dominion. Four sessions were held in Ottawa, two in Montreal and four in Toronto. The inquiry, in respect to the first matter of reference, is almost terminated so far as the hearing of evidence is concerned, and your Committee will be able to present to the House an Interim Report in the course of three or four weeks.

Your Committee therefore recommends to the House the desirability of ratifying the action of the Committee in having proceeded with the inquiry as if the House had granted to the Committee, at the time of its appointment, the various powers and authorities above mentioned, and the Committee further recommends that such powers and authorities be granted for the future work of the Committee, and in addition thereto, that the Com-