

By Mr. Arthurs:

Q. Is that the fiscal year or the calendar year?—A. That is the fiscal year. In the last two years, of that 1,355 and the 1,153 in 1923, a great many of the men owned their own land; a very small amount of land was purchased in these years. The land being purchased has dwindled very much. I might say that—I am sorry, I am afraid I have made a mistake. Those are calendar years, and not the fiscal years. The amount of money that has been expended, the total amount advanced for land purchased, for stock and equipment, for permanent improvements, for seed, for taxes, for subsistence, and for all matters in connection with advances to settlers, is \$100,425,077.00. The total due by settlers at the end of the past fiscal year is \$87,480,164.00.

By Mr. Arthurs:

Q. You do not want to use the word "due" there?—A. No, it is not due; the total principal owing by settlers. The balances outstanding, with interest, and including advances made from our appropriation, not by us but by the Indian Department to Indian settlers who were returned soldiers are \$90,757,000, and that is including balances on foreclosures, and abandonments as well.

By Mr. Robichaud:

Q. Is that \$9,000,000 or \$90,000,000?—A. \$90,000,000. That is the total. I gave the total indebtedness as \$87,000,000, and the total including the advances to Indians, and all others, the amount standing on the books as the indebtedness of soldier settlers as \$90,000,000.

Q. That is including the Indians?—A. Including the Indians. At the time the Soldiers' Settlement was passed, I might say with reference to the Indian loans, an amendment was made to the Indian Act providing for the establishment of Indians, who come under the Indian Department, and making the money available to them from our appropriation, but we have nothing to do with the administration, nothing to do with the granting of the loans.

Q. What was the total amount of such loans to Indians?—A. \$363,594.

By Mr. Caldwell:

Q. Under the head of administration there is an item of \$7,129.00 for Indian settlers. What fund is that paid out of?—A. That is paid out of our fund, but we simply turn the money over to the Indian Department. They simply ask us from time to time for so much money and we give it to them.

Q. I notice it is charged under another item here in your report.—A. I have not a copy of the report.

Q. This gives, "Cost of Administration \$9,668,000," and so on, to date. Other expenditures under that head, "Cost of Settling Indian Soldiers, \$7,129."

A. That, of course, is the cost that the Indian Department has returned to us. We supply the money for their advances, and if any special expenses are incurred, we would supply that out of our appropriation.

By Mr. Caldwell:

Q. Was this \$7,129 supplied out of your appropriation?—A. Yes.

Q. Payment for the Indian Department?—A. Yes.

Q. For administration?—A. Yes. The abandonments, or as we call them, the adjustment cases, because they include deaths and some cases of sales, number 4,463. That is at March 31st last.

By Mr. Arthurs:

Q. Could you subdivide these roughly?—A. I have not that prepared this year. The reason why we did not prepare a statement is that it is only in a very

[Major John Barnett.]