

Two other notices bore the date of January 20. Still the minister in his wire tells me that there will be no dispossession until spring. Just imagine these papers being received by registered mail, taken home by the settler and read by him to his wife and family sitting around him in their little shack. What other conclusion can he arrive at than that he must hand over his stock and leave the place in two cases on the 20th February and in this case on the 28th February. Yet the minister says that they are not being dispossessed until spring. The soldier settlement board was established for the sole purpose of reestablishing these men, assisting them and encouraging them to stay on the land, but it has become nothing more than a glorified collection department. Case after case has been presented to the house. Last session it will be remembered that cases were presented by some of the hon. members for western Canada showing that it was impossible to obtain sufficient revenue from these holdings to meet the demands of the board and the cost of living. These have been termed exceptional cases. I have a file of these cases and I have come across so many I do not think they can any longer be considered as isolated cases. From my experience they are general. But I am not going to take up the time of the house in presenting these or any of them. I would just like to draw the attention of the minister and the government to the convention of the Canadian Legion. A special committee at that convention went thoroughly into this question; they brought witnesses before them and they collected a good deal of evidence. They came to the conclusion that it was impossible for these settlers to make good under present conditions and they so reported to the convention. The convention recommended the "remission of interest and a straight cut of 25 per cent."

We are told that there is outstanding on these loans, \$73,000,000. This of course stands against the 10,000 abandoned farms as well as against the 13,000 occupied holdings. What portion is standing against the occupied holdings, we do not know, but we do know that to administer and care for these 13,000 holdings it is costing this country \$1,500,000 a year, or more than \$100 a year or about \$10 a month for each holding. It might be good business for Canada to give these men their title and wipe out this expenditure of \$1,500,000 a year. But the returned men are not asking for that; they want simply a square deal, and I would suggest to the government that this session they seriously consider the recommendation of the Canadian Legion and at the same time take into consideration the

[Mr. Barber.]

appointment of a commission, independent of the board, to go thoroughly into this as well as the 3,000 family scheme under which we have so many dissatisfied settlers.

This is all I wish to draw to the attention of the government at the present time. It is a very important question to the soldier settler, and I hope the government will take it into their serious consideration and make some provision for the relief of these men who are undertaking to make good on the land throughout the Dominion of Canada.

Motion (Mr. Gray) agreed to.

Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Minister of Justice) moved:

That the address be engrossed and transmitted to His Excellency the Governor General by such members of the house as are of the honourable the Privy Council.

Motion agreed to.

SUPPLY

Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Minister of Justice) for Mr. Dunning moved:

That this house will to-morrow resolve itself into a committee to consider of a supply to be granted to His Majesty.

Motion agreed to.

WAYS AND MEANS

Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Minister of Justice) moved:

That this house will to-morrow resolve itself into a committee to consider of the ways and means for raising the supply to be granted to His Majesty.

Motion agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Mackenzie King the house adjourned at 5.55 p.m.

Wednesday, February 26, 1930

The house met at three o'clock.

CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT

Mr. J. J. E. GUERIN (St. Ann) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 6, to amend the Criminal Code (embalming).

Some hon. MEMBERS: Explain.

Mr. GUERIN: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to ensure that it shall be definitely ascertained that life has departed from the body of a human being before the operation of embalming takes place. It has become a universal practice to embalm bodies, and this is generally done in such haste that it is really a question whether or not a person