

a time have not been on duty, should not be among those to receive this allowance.

With reference to the item of \$2,000,000 in connection with seed grain advances, I would ask whether the time has not come when matters of that kind should be left to the local governments. They are matters which can be handled by them much better than by the Dominion Government. The Dominion Government sends a man out to take charge; he knows nothing about the business and has to obtain whatever information he can. From my personal knowledge I can say that in years gone by a great deal of seed grain was advanced to men who had no right to it, and the officers could not very well help themselves.

There is an item of \$20,000,000 for soldiers' land settlement. I am of the same opinion that I expressed last year, that that is a foolish expenditure. Last session, if I remember correctly, we voted \$25,000,000; and this session we are voting \$20,000,000 more. I would suggest to the Government that they go very carefully in connection with that particular item of expenditure.

In reference to the item of \$40,000,000, I am pleased to be able to congratulate the Government upon the decision which they have come to with regard to the re-establishment of the soldier. I was glad to see that the Government had the courage not to be carried off their feet by the hotheads who wanted a gratuity of \$2,000 for every man, thus adding to the burden of the people of Canada. The action taken now is the better action. The previous action in giving a general gratuity, which has cost the country \$153,000,000, was wrong. If a gratuity had been given then such as is proposed now, to help those who needed it, you would have had better results. Thousands of men who got the gratuity have not done a day's work since they got it, although there has been work for every one, and they could have got work, but they would not take it. Now the gratuity ends, and we shall have to deal with them. I take second place to no man in my desire to do the right thing for those who were wounded and those who have suffered, and for the relatives of those who have been killed; but to give a general gratuity would have been folly, and any party that advanced such a proposal would have been left behind, because the good sense of the people will recognize that the Government has done plenty, and more than plenty, for these men. The returned soldiers were causing an expenditure of almost double the total debt of Canada before the war in gra-

Hon. Mr. TURRIFF.

tuities and assistance; and yet we hear some of them claiming that they have not been fairly treated. I say they are being fairly treated, and more than fairly treated, and I am glad that the Government have come to the decision that they have come to, and that the expenditure in gratuities to returned soldiers has probably ended.

Hon. GEO. H. BRADBURY: I desire to say a word or two with regard to the Estimate of \$25,000 for coal operations. I should like to draw the attention of the House for just a moment to a report made by a gentleman sent out by the Interior Department to investigate coal lands in the West. In speaking of the Hoppe leases, he says:

There is ample evidence of an abundance of coal, not one or two seams but many of them, all of workable thickness and no doubt of a high grade. Regarding the quality of the coal, I will advise you later when the results of the analyses are known.

This coal area is perhaps the most extensive unexploited deposits in Canada to-day. In the meantime the country does not require this coal.

I should like to draw the attention of the House to the phrasing of this clause.

In the meantime the country does not require this coal. Any shortage in the past has been due entirely to labour troubles. Drumheller coal is mined within 100 miles of the city of Calgary. There is abundance of it, yet the price in Calgary to-day is \$8.75 per ton. This is due entirely to labour troubles and not because of any lack of that commodity.

The capacity of the Alberta mines, if they were operated steadily the whole year round, is approximately 15,000,000 tons annually. Yet last year, the greatest in point of production, only 6,000,000 were mined.

I believe, therefore, that the coal of the Smoky River district is not required just now, and that the mines now in operation in this province are amply able to take care of the market.

If the Government is to continue and extend operation of a National system of railways, it will require coal reserves of its own. Even if it does not operate its railroads, I believe it would be in the interests of conservation to set aside this block for future use. When the time arrives that this coal is required for domestic and industrial purposes,—and it will not be required for many years—the Government, if it so desired, would then be able to dispose of it at a handsome figure. In the meantime, I believe it would be a wise and proper measure to make a coal reservation—

In spite of the fact that this gentleman, who has just come from the West, makes this report, stating that this coal is not necessary, but that the coal of the Drumheller and other mines can supply all that is needed, I find one of the western members, Mr. E. E. Myers, of Kindersley, referring to this item, and inquiring if the director is at work now, and stating that many people are suffering for lack of coal, and