

Mr. MEIGHEN: It is being done by a system of drawing lots; the whole plan has been worked out and is accepted as satisfactory. I do not like the chance system, but I do not know of any other. From all appearances, there is going to be a rush for these lands more resembling a Klondike rush than anything else. We have had to put up tents on the grounds and provide for the accommodation of the soldiers who are going to be there for entry on the 2nd of July.

Mr. CAHILL: I suppose that the plans and regulations can be obtained from the Department of the Interior?

Mr. MEIGHEN: Yes, all details can be had from the Soldier Settlement Board, Union Bank building.

There is one other matter to which I wish to call attention. Under the 1917 Act the soldier homesteader is entitled to a loan of \$2,500. That is not added to, except in this way: He is not entitled to the improvement loan of \$1,000, because his \$2,500 is all he gets on his land; but he is entitled to the loan of \$2,000 for stock, and implements, provided the total amount he gets does not exceed \$3,000. It is felt that if we assist the homesteader by a loan on his land and by a loan for stock and implements, the whole aggregating \$3,000, inasmuch as he gets his land free he has no cause of complaint when he compares his position with that of the man who buys his land. As regards the man who owns his land, and, under the 1917 Act was entitled only to a loan of \$2,500; to him we grant the privilege of application for the \$2,000 for stock and implements and the \$1,000 for improvements, provided his total does not exceed \$5,500. It will be noted that we do not do the same for the man who owns his land as we do for the man who buys his land and becomes a settler. From some points of view that may appear hard to justify, but the reason is this: The great purpose of the soldier settlement scheme is not to become a big loan venture, not to take the place of loaning companies, but to make men settlers. It is a settlement institution, not a loaning institution; you do not make a man a settler merely by assisting him. But because we assist so much those who become settlers, we cannot altogether deny help to those who already are settlers; so we have decided that this is a fair arrangement to make with regard to the returned soldier who is a farmer, owns his land, and is therefore entitled to some of the advantages of our general scheme. Having said that, I

think that I have answered, in the main, the question put through this morning by the member for North Perth (Mr. Morphy).

I omitted to mention this morning one feature of the activities of the board. Some little time ago the board established a branch known as the Home Branch, or domestic science branch, the purpose of which is to assist the soldier's wife. The head of that branch is Mrs. Muldrew, who for many years has qualified herself for this work. Indeed, she was previously engaged in work of a similar character, and is the best person we could possibly get to assume the responsibility of this branch of the work. The Home Branch endeavours, by a system of circulars and correspondence, to help the soldier's wife in her domestic work and in the management of the home, and to prevent, as far as possible, waste and extravagance there. One assistant in each province undertakes the responsibility of the work for that province, and supplements the correspondence by actual visits to the homes of the soldier settlers. That is as far as the organization as yet has gone. In the United States this branch of the agricultural work has reached a considerable degree of efficiency; indeed, it is looked upon there as, perhaps, the most useful phase of the work of the Department of Agriculture. We are trying it in the soldier settlement work—so far, we have every reason to believe, with considerable success.

I think I have finished about all that I should say before we come to the actual clauses of the Bill, except that I should forecast, in general, the main provisions of this legislation so far as they amplify the powers that the board has already exercised under the Orders passed. Under the main basic order regarding private lands, that is, the Order of the 11th of February, the board had power to acquire, by purchase, gift or otherwise, lands for sale for soldiers and to acquire stock and implements for the same purpose. But they have no power to take the land by expropriation, if satisfactory terms could not be arranged with the owners. The power of expropriation was one which we did not feel justified in taking by Order in Council; moreover, it was a power which, for the time being, we did not require, as sufficient lands were available and were being offered for sale to make it reasonably certain that, without expropriation, there would be little, if any, difficulty in providing all the soldiers who would come in with suitable lands for their purposes. At the same time, we cannot altogether rest on the basis of voluntary purchase. There will be