

the larger markets, the less profitable is the enterprise. There is no particular advantage in a province like Ontario in keeping soldiers together in villages. There are some disadvantages. In the West, in more remote parts, where they are anxious not to become isolated, we encourage the selection by soldiers together of areas of land; we have those areas inspected, and if proven suitable for the purpose, we reserve them from entry by others and also from entry by other soldiers. We have special regulations covering that work, but it would not look to me to be likely a feasible venture to encourage farming in such groups as would constitute villages close to towns in Ontario, for the reason that it would be better, in carrying on small-holding farming to have the limited number that can possibly engage in it—because the number is very limited, it is limited by the market—spread throughout the whole area of the market. That, at all events, is the substance of the report of the Small Holdings Committee. We cannot take many along that line, and I may say that we are aiming to give special advantages in this kind of farming to perhaps incapacitated soldiers, not including in that number those who have merely slight incapacitation, but such men as blind soldiers and those in a like position of comparative helplessness. The field of small-holding farming is so limited that we feel we ought, in our encouragement, to give the right of way to that class of men, and I purpose to-day moving an amendment to section 61 enabling the board to make special concessions in the case of blind and otherwise incapacitated men.

Mr. MOWAT: The view of the minister extends only to farming, but there are innumerable cases where men, who have never been farmers and who will never make farmers, have given up their little businesses to go to war and who have found when they have come back that the business is gone, and they are practically thrown on the world. They have not a trade to turn to; they had only their businesses and they are gone. It is those men that it was hoped would be benefited by their being given on a rentable basis suitable houses. The only economical way to build those houses would be in a village or group where the men could turn perhaps to small gardening or mixed farming in a small way, but generally to other occupations and where, with the help of their pensions, they would be able to live comfortably and respectably for the rest of their lives. The trouble in most of the large centres is that

houses are difficult to obtain. Most of these men are domestically inclined. They want houses; they want to bring up their families in comfort, and the aim of this would be to allow those who are not farmers to have these homes and to pay back to the Government the money expended in the course of twenty years.

Mr. MEIGHEN: It is quite true that my reply had to do only with farming, for the reason that this Bill has to do only with farming. That is the reason my department could have nothing to do with any other class of occupation. I expressed the view, earlier in the debate, that, if possible, the taking care of the administration of any other assistance should be by local authorities with possibly some subvention from the Dominion, but that the administrative duties shall be locally rather than federally performed. Our housing plan rests also upon that principle.

Mr. M. CLARK: With reference to the remark of the minister a moment ago I gather that the idea of community centres is not absolutely lost to view.

Mr. MEIGHEN: We do not lose to view the soldier community, in the sense that they can communize in farming, providing we maintain the principle of individual responsibility. Notwithstanding persistent and repeated pressure we have consistently resisted any inroads upon that principle. We will not accept any communal responsibility. There must be individual holding of land and individual responsibility, but we reserve areas where men who are friends may go and buy land, but when they take their land they are separately liable for all the obligations.

I beg to move that the words "of His Majesty or" be inserted at the beginning of subsection 2 of section 2. The effect of the amendment is this: The definition of settler under the Bill as it stood was not wide enough to include a man who was in the Imperial Forces, having enlisted in the Imperial Forces in England. If a member of the Flying Corps, for instance, enlisted in England, and did not get out of England, if he was held for service in England against air raids or the like, the definition did not cover him, but if he enlisted in England and went out of England the definition did cover him. The effect of this amendment will be to cover him if he did not get out of England.

Mr. MAHARG: Is that the only amendment to this section?