

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: I have no comment at all to make on the Bill. We have a very slim House, but if it is necessary to speed up things I shall not oppose the passage of this measure now.

### THIRD READING

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND moved the third reading of the Bill.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the third time, and passed.

### BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND moved that when the Senate adjourns to-night it do stand adjourned until 2.30 o'clock to-morrow afternoon.

He said: Honourable senators, I do not know what further legislation we may expect from the other House, nor when that House is likely to finish its work. I do not know whether the session will end to-morrow, or this week, or next week.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate adjourned until to-morrow at 2.30 o'clock p.m.

## THE SENATE

Thursday, May 29, 1930.

The Senate met at 2.30 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

### SOLDIER SETTLEMENT BILL

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE

Hon. F. B. BLACK presented the Report of the Committee on Banking and Commerce, to whom was referred Bill 313, an Act to amend the Soldier Settlement Act.

He said: Honourable senators, I do not know whether the concurrence of the House in the suggestion made by the right honourable the junior member for Ottawa (Right Hon. Sir George E. Foster) a few days ago, that an explanation should be given by the chairman of a committee reporting a Bill, allows me to make a few remarks now. However, I am going to assume that I have that right, and shall proceed, unless I am forbidden, to say a few words on this Bill.

Some members of the committee requested that a résumé of the expenses of soldier settlement, together with other particulars, as pre-

pared by Col. Rattray, should be laid before the House. I have that résumé and shall submit it with the Bill, and ask that it be placed on Hansard.

Ottawa, April 14, 1930.

#### The Soldier Settlement Board Organization

The start of the organization was in 1917, when legislation was put in force permitting the Board to make loans by way of mortgage on lands owned by returned soldiers. This met the condition existing at that time, because it was only those who had been discharged medically unfit who were coming back to Canada in 1917.

In 1918 and 1919, after the war was over, the question of re-establishing returned men became very acute. It must be remembered the end of the war caused a collapse of business and manufacturing, and many of the men who had been in employment before going overseas could not get back into the same positions, for reasons that I need not enumerate.

The Soldier Settlement Act, 1919, was passed to allow greater scope in settling returned soldiers on the land. The number of returned men applying for homesteads was really greater than the supply of these, and also many of the returned soldiers did not wish to go into homesteading, but wished to purchase land in the older parts of the provinces, so power was granted to the Soldier Settlement Board to purchase farms.

An organization was set up for the purpose of acquiring these lands and settling these returned soldiers and purchasing stock and equipment for them. This organization was composed of men who had gone overseas during the war, and very few of those in the executive and administrative positions had any previous knowledge of lands or of loaning money on same; but it speaks well for those who were in the organization at that time, that during 1918, 1919, and 1920, about 30,000 returned soldiers were placed on the land, and of this number about 25,000 received advances for the purchase of land, erection of buildings, and purchase of stock and equipment. In all a total of about \$112,000,000 was loaned during these years.

Criticism might be made as to why it was necessary to do this, but I think it is a sound assertion to make that the effect of soldier settlement was to act as a safety valve on the returned soldier problem during these years. These men were coming back in thousands and had to re-establish themselves, and in their endeavour to do so they always had in their minds the fact that if they could not establish themselves in their own positions or in any other way they could go to the Soldier Settlement Board and have some land purchased for them and some stock and equipment, and in this way ensure a livelihood for a few years until they were able to get themselves placed in some way more to their liking. The fact that some 6,000 men took up homesteads which later on they never were near, is proof of what I have just stated. Also, the fact that a considerable number of these men gave up their lands during the years 1920, 1921, 1922, and 1923, bears out what I have stated—that it was a temporary undertaking which enabled many returned men to tide over a few years