

Mr. GARDINER: Would the minister state how much land the soldier settlement board has unoccupied on its hands at the present time?

Mr. FORKE: I will have that looked up.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: How many British families are now on the land in connection with the empire settlement scheme?

Mr. FORKE: It is expected that we shall have a full complement this summer. I think it lacks three hundred at the present time. I want to make it plain that that three thousand family scheme might be never-ending, because you will find some families dropping out every year and they will need to be replaced. But no more families will be brought out next year under that scheme.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: What is the average amount of loan, on account of land purchased, made by the Canadian government to these settlers, and what is the average indebtedness of each family towards the British government? These families, of course, carry a double-headed debt. There is the \$1,500 received from the British government to assist in stocking a farm, and there is the cost of the land turned over to them by the Canadian government. I should like to find out the indebtedness carried by the average family if the minister has that information, and if not, I should like to have it prepared.

Mr. FORKE: The average indebtedness is \$3,505.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: That is the average purchase price?

Mr. FORKE: Yes. The hon. member referred to loans made to British settlers. The Dominion government makes no loans of any kind to these settlers.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: You sell them land on time.

Mr. FORKE: Yes, but I want to repeat, because there is a general misapprehension on the subject, that the Dominion government makes no loans of any kind to these settlers.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: I was not under a misapprehension. Perhaps I did not put my question clearly. I want to know, first, the amount to which the average settler is indebted to the Canadian government in respect of the land purchased, and second, the amount to which he is indebted to the British government in respect of loans made.

Mr. FORKE: To get at that figure, you have first the average amount paid for a farm,

which is \$3,505, and you have 3,000 families. Multiply those two figures, and you get the total amount owing, less what has already been paid.

Mr. GARDINER: You do not collect for the British government?

Mr. FORKE: Yes.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: What is the average indebtedness to the British government by way of loan, for which you are not responsible but which you collect?

Mr. FORKE: I cannot give those figures offhand.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: Have these settlers on the average received \$1,500?

Mr. FORKE: I do not think that the three thousand families have paid as well in proportion as the soldier settlers.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: I did not ask that. I asked the average loan made by the British government to each family. I understand that \$1,500 is the basis, but that the loans vary. I am trying to find the capital indebtedness of each farm under the empire settlement scheme, and that would include the cost of the land, the loan made by the British government, and the passage money advanced, which is repayable. Those are three types of public indebtedness which these farms would carry.

Mr. FORKE: I think \$800 would be about the average indebtedness.

Mr. GARDINER: What is the average acreage per farm allocated to the British families?

Mr. FORKE: Mostly half-sections.

Mr. GARDINER: For only a total cost of \$3,505?

Mr. FORKE: There are a number of quarter-sections.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: That is a very great deal more than the 23 per cent reduction that the soldier settlers got on the revaluation. The farms that I have seen are quarter-sections.

Mr. FORKE: I am speaking without the book.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: I want definite information on this because I have been working on the subject for a long time, and I am being continually asked for information.

Mr. FORKE: It is difficult to say offhand just how many quarter-sections and half-sections have been occupied.