

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE: You know that the same provision was there for twenty-five years in the old Act.

Mr. GREEN: I realize that.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE: I should be very happy to have the committee call them in and get the best advice.

Mr. GREEN: In many cases men have complained to me they were losing the chance of getting various properties because they could not get advice from any real estate man.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE: My own memory is not very definite on the point, but my recollection is that the Canadian Legion were very much opposed at that time to having any third party interfere in the valuation of properties for soldiers' settlement, but if this committee should look into it and give me its advice as to whether we should redraft or revise our policy I would be very grateful for it.

Mr. GREEN: It might be worthwhile writing to the properly organized real estate exchanges asking for representations.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE: There is no objection to that.

The last set of figures which I shall present relates to the War Service Grants Act. Payment of gratuity is made by the pay officers of the armed services and as each new account is opened notification is passed to the Department of Veterans Affairs indicating the amount of re-establishment credit to be set up.

Returns from the defence services up to August 31 show that payment of 203,565 gratuities has begun.

My departmental officers are setting up ledger sheets showing the re-establishment credit for each gratuity recipient at the rate of about 6,250 sheets a week.

On August 31, there had been set up 199,768 credit accounts with a total value of \$54,512,621.

Credit had already been issued to the extent of \$5,311,190 and I am sure it will interest this committee to examine and compare the useful purposes to which these funds have been applied.

Home—National Housing Act.....	\$ 37,987 14
Home—not under National Housing Act.....	1,455,451 17
Home—Repairs etc.	545,269 50
Home—Furniture or Household Equipment.....	1,981,601 30
Business—Working capital.....	640,979 54
Business—Tools, instruments, etc.	541,769 12
Business—Purchase of.....	61,613 30
Insurance Premiums.....	39,656 16
Educational—Equipment, Books, etc.	5,775 76
Miscellaneous	1,087 70
Total	\$5,311,190 69

NEW LEGISLATION

And now, Mr. Chairman, with that background, I shall try to give you an outline of the specific enactments which are to be placed before you for the consideration of the committee and ultimately, with your concurrence, of the House.

Just a word as to the procedure. It has been a tradition of the Canadian parliament—a tradition of which, as a veteran, I am personally very proud—that our pension and rehabilitation legislation shall represent the agreed opinion of such committees as this, consisting of ex-service members from all