

—In addition to the fifteen-mile strip in proximity to each railroad we have reserved many special areas for returned soldiers. For example, last year it seemed to me that the time had come to finally clear up the many complicated questions that had arisen with respect to the Doukhobor community in the province of Saskatchewan. I do not mean to recite the long history of that community and the various attempts that were made to have the Doukhobors comply with the law. Many of them complied, resulting in a rather complicated condition of affairs as to the holding of the different sets of land in the community. But after inspections and negotiations we finally succeeded in clearing up the whole district, so that now there is nothing in the way of a Doukhobor community, as a community; that is a thing of the past in the province of Saskatchewan so far as Dominion lands are concerned. Wherever the lands were reserved for Doukhobors, and they were still doing in a measure, but not wholly, the homestead duties, we cleaned up the whole thing, and we sold to the heads of families their fair proportion of that land at an unimproved valuation of, I think, \$10 per acre. They paid for that and we took the individual responsibility of the head of each family. After determining what they all were entitled to, there was finally left an area of about 64 quarter-sections of land, which were taken out of the reserve once and for all, and those 64 quarter-sections we have made available for returned soldiers. That land of course is away above the ordinary homestead land in value, and as a consequence it would not have been fair to the soldiers generally to have opened it for entry, and in the meantime it was too soon to deal with it otherwise in view of the large number of soldiers still overseas. So we leased the land, chiefly to returned soldiers, for this year.

Mr. McKENZIE: Is it broken land?

Mr. MEIGHEN: Yes, and much of it is improved. Some of it is worth \$40 or \$50 an acre. What I contemplate as the fairest method of dealing with that land is to put a fair valuation on it, not the outside limit, and to sell it under the ordinary terms, because I think it is only just that some attempt should be made to build up an insurance fund to take care of what will necessarily follow—a certain amount of loss in connection with this phase of the enterprise. Therefore, in dealing with lands of an ex-

[Mr. Meighen.]

ceptional value, such as those, it seemed to me that the sale price should be paid.

It will also be noted that some days ago we took considerable areas for this purpose out of the forest reserves. That class of land is not by any means as valuable as the 64 quarter-sections taken from the Doukhobor reserve. I may say that that plan of dealing with the Doukhobor reserve in Saskatchewan, as it finally eventuated, met with the satisfaction not only of the community, but of the other people of the district, including the returned soldiers' organization. They felt that they had been fairly dealt with and expressed their satisfaction with the course taken.

As regards land taken from the forest reserves, the principal reservation is in the Porcupine reserve. That is being opened up for entry on July 2. But we do not propose to allow homestead entry there, but only entry by returned men. A special survey has been made of the land and the idea is that there will be 240 acres available for each man. It is mixed farming land, leaning to stock raising rather than to grain farming land, although undoubtedly it is a grain farming country too. We purpose giving the men who are successful in the allotment one quarter-section each, reserving the immediately adjoining 80 acres to be used by the soldier under some arrangement with the board in the meantime, pending his establishing that he is farming his 160 acres properly and is going to succeed in discharging his obligations, in which event it is intended to sell that 80 acres to him at not its full value, but at some fair valuation, based, of course, upon inspection in each case. Then there are lands that have been held for stock—

Mr. COPP: In this Porcupine district are the soldiers who settle there entitled to a loan for stock?

Mr. MEIGHEN: Yes, they will be entitled to the loan of \$2,500 provided for by the Act of 1917, in addition to the advantage which the soldier has had since March this year, namely, the right to a further loan for stock, implements and improvements. He does not get the full \$4,500 that the man gets who buys, because he gets the bounty of the Crown in getting his land; his maximum, therefore, in every case, will be \$4,500. He does not get that, of course, unless there is some additional security in the land.

Mr. CAHILL: Have the Government arrived at any basis upon which they will allot this land in the reserves?