

we are informed by those whose opinions are also entitled to every consideration, even including some of the Returned Soldiers Associations that have been organized for the purpose of caring for our returned soldiers; that their experience thus far would lead them to believe that not only comparatively few of the soldiers who were never upon the land before would be induced to locate upon the land, but that many of those who were employed on the land prior to enlistment were determined not to return to the land—to use their own expressive words: the white lights are good enough for them.

However, we may differ upon this question, there is one point upon which we will all agree, and that is that of all the races of this globe, the Anglo-Saxon is the least amenable to supervision and State dictation, and possibly for this very reason our efforts in locating returned soldiers may not be as thorough and complete as those of other countries where the ideas of personal freedom are not so deeply engrained. With us, the returned soldier will himself largely decide the nature of his avocation in life, a State predilection that he should locate upon the land can be forwarded only by whatever educational propaganda we may be able to conduct, setting forth the advantages of an agricultural life, together with such financial and other assistance as we may be prepared to hold out to him.

At present we are protecting the homesteader, who has gone forth to fight the battle of the Empire, against cancellation of his homestead entry during the period of enlistment and for three months after he shall have received his discharge. We also allow to count on his homestead residence the time he has put in on active service. In the unfortunate cases where soldiers may not return by reason of being killed in battle, we, upon proof of death being furnished, at once issue patent to the legal representatives without requiring the performance of settlement duties. Similar concession is held out to the man who is disabled; he also will have his patent issued without the performance of further duties. The legislation contemplated by this resolution has in it three distinctive features: first, the setting aside of Dominion lands in such areas and in such localities as will be recommended by a board of commissioners that will be constituted for the purpose of administering this measure; secondly, the providing of

agricultural instruction, by way of the different methods set forth in the Bill which will be founded upon this resolution, to the inexperienced soldier prior to his entry upon the land; thirdly, the providing of financial assistance by way of loans to those who are recommended by the board of commissioners as being possessed of the requisite skill in agriculture to give promise of a fair measure of success. These are the three features of our legislation which will be further elaborated in the Bill to be introduced.

The members of the House are aware that, with the exception of the Prairie Provinces of the West, the Crown lands of Canada are in the ownership of the various provinces. Those provinces have already enacted land settlement policies of their own, some with special reference to the returned soldiers, others with the idea of giving preferential treatment to the returned soldiers. We have considered it advisable, in connection with our legislation, to leave entirely in the hands of those provinces who own their own lands the disposition of their lands by whatever method each province in its wisdom decides upon, and we are confining our legislation, in so far as setting aside land is concerned, to Dominion lands under the jurisdiction of this Government, namely in the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Financial assistance to the extent of \$2,000, bearing 5 per cent interest per annum for the purpose of providing equipment and making improvements will be granted, not only to the returned soldier who locates on our Dominion land in the Prairie Provinces, but to the returned soldier who desires to locate upon lands other than Dominion lands whether in the Prairie Provinces or in any other province of the Dominion. Thus the soldier who has a little capital of his own, who decides to locate on land which he desires to purchase, will be granted financial assistance to the extent of \$2,000, bearing interest of 5 per cent per annum, not only for the purpose of providing equipment and making improvements but to assist him in the purchase of the land.

This is in the main the outline of our legislation, and I am sure the Minister of Agriculture, whose department is also interested in this Bill inasmuch as it provides the agricultural training, together with the Minister of Finance, whose department is interested in providing the wherewithal to make the loans, will be only too pleased, in conjunction with myself, to enter into more