

Mr. J. H. SINCLAIR: What kind of title does the soldier get?

Mr. MEIGHEN: He gets an agreement of sale. His interest in the land is equitable only.

Mr. J. H. SINCLAIR: He does not get an absolute deed.

Mr. MEIGHEN: He does not get an absolute deed, and the agreement of sale is cancellable merely upon notice. No expense at all is involved.

Mr. PETER MCGIBBON: Is the valuation placed upon this land by the appraisers sent out by the Government, final?

Mr. MEIGHEN: It is final in this sense that the valuation of our officers is the valuation upon which we rely; that is to say the amount we will permit to be advanced against that land depends upon that valuation.

Section agreed to.

On section 8—compulsory purchase:

Mr. STACEY: I wish to offer a slight amendment to clause 8, or rather I suggest it to the minister in the hope that it will be acceptable. But before doing so, I would like to make a few general observations regarding the way in which this proposition actually works out from the standpoint of the soldier as an applicant. It was my privilege to spend some two months on the mainland in British Columbia endeavouring to do what I could for the returned man in his effort to find a home upon the land, and having had some experience in the city of Vancouver during the last few months, I have no hesitation whatever in most heartily congratulating the Government and the minister upon the comprehensive, complete, and in the main, thoroughly satisfactory character of the scheme which has been placed before the country. I want also to congratulate the minister upon the staff which is to be found in the city of Vancouver, and I presume a similar staff in the matter of efficiency has been provided in every other office throughout the country. I mention the Vancouver staff because I know of it, and know something of its character and efficiency. Not only do I refer to the officials, but also to the men who comprise the qualification committee and the advisory board. In the city of Vancouver there are three of the best known loan men in the province of British Columbia, who volunteered their services. I do not suppose we could have bought those ser-

vices; the men are too busy, their time is too valuable, and they are otherwise engaged from morning to night; but as a contribution by themselves towards this work they were willing to help and do it gratuitously. This service was very highly appreciated by the board in Vancouver, and I am sure is likewise appreciated by this House, and I presume similar conditions obtain with regard to other centres.

The question may arise in some men's minds: Who are going back to the land? We of course looked for men who had come from the farm to return, but in addition we found that there was a considerable number of men from offices, even some men from the professions, who desired to settle upon the land and for various reasons, now consider, they do not further desire the confinement of an office. They seek and long for, a settled life; they want to be doing what they believe is worth while. They appreciate the national slogan of production as the cry for the coming generation, and wish to make their contribution towards the development of this great country. We did find, however, that there are in the province, and I presume the same may obtain in other provinces, several misconceptions as to the character and the nature of the scheme outlined. We found in some parts of British Columbia men here and there with the idea that the Government was buying on a large scale, that it was purchasing great areas of land. Consequently, we had offers from individuals and corporations of land that was in their opinion, most admirably suited for the returned soldiers. Some men seemed to think they had land that was especially suitable for the returned men, although to the most of us the question would naturally occur why it had not been offered and accepted for a similar purpose prior to the introduction of this scheme.

Now I want to speak of a matter which the minister did not mention but which is one of the practical outcroppings of the entire proposition. We have received very hearty co-operation from various organized bodies, from municipalities, and from private citizens, and indeed from

5 p.m. real estate firms, along these lines. A man returned wished to engage in a certain kind of farming. We knew the country and would say to him: "Go out to a certain place. Go to Mr. Smith and he will show you everything in that district which is available." There was nothing in it for Mr. Smith, he did that work in the interests of the men con-