

posals were adapted to the particular conditions of the provinces themselves. If these provinces were to control their own regulations, we thought the better way would be to allow each to take its own time to work out a policy of its own with reference to the assisting of returned soldiers having reference to the peculiar conditions obtaining in each province. A number of the provinces have already passed statutes and they are planning several more. One proposition for land settlement that has been very popular in the Maritime Provinces is the community settlement plan. Several projects were submitted to us, the essential idea of which is that land should be expropriated, a central village established in each area and small farms within a radius of it taken by persons who might have a house and a barn in the little village that it is proposed to create. All the schemes have special reference to the province wherein they were devolved, and it seems to me that we can rely upon each of the provinces adopting legislation which will suit the soldiers of these different provinces.

Mr. TURRIFF: The hamlet system of farming has never been a success in the western provinces. It has been tried a number of times. There is, or was, a clause in the Dominion Lands Act providing for settlers adopting the hamlet system. But, it does not amount to anything and it has never been made a success except by the Mennonites and Doukhobors. English-speaking people would not make a success of that system in the West. I would like to ask the minister whether men who have gone overseas and who have been sent back will come under this law.

Mr. ROCHE: We have not drawn the line so fine as that. We have defined "settler" to mean "any person who has served in the naval or military expeditionary forces of Canada during the present war."

Mr. TURRIFF: That would bring them in.

Mr. ROCHE: That covers the point.

Sir HERBERT AMES: If a man joins to-day, spend a week in the expeditionary force expecting to go overseas, and is then discharged, is he entitled to the benefits of this Act? He is a member of the "expeditionary forces of Canada" on active service.

Mr. ROCHE: The commission will exercise a discretion in that regard. The loan shall only be given to a man "who has left

[Sir Herbert Ames.]

the forces with an honourable record and who has been honourably discharged." If he has been discharged on account of any irregularity, he would not be eligible, and the commission would exercise a discretion in that case.

Sir HERBERT AMES: Will men who enlisted, were passed as medically fit, served a short time in Canada in camp or barracks, went to England and were found to be unfitted for soldiers and were discharged, be entitled to the benefits of this Bill?

Mr. ROCHE: I do not see any reason to deny them the benefits inasmuch as we are desirous of getting increased production and getting soldiers on the land. We are not making a gift to any individual. We are desirous of getting a quid pro quo, and the quid pro quo is a soldier settler. We should not offer any interference or any bar to any returned soldier who desires to settle on the land. We ought to make the interpretation pretty broad. Any person who has joined the Canadian Expeditionary Forces for active service would be included.

Sir HERBERT AMES: It seems to me there should be some recognition of the degree of service rendered, and that a man who has only served a week or so in Canada should not be compared with the man who has actually gone to the front or who has given two or three years of service. As far as getting at the facts is concerned, and that sort of thing, you might make a classification as between the men who have been in France and the men who have only been a few weeks in the service here. There should be a differentiation. I do not think that any man should get special privileges unless he has actually gone overseas.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: What are the special privileges? Has a soldier, to get a land grant, to do settlement duties and make improvements the same as an ordinary settler?

Mr. ROCHE: That was all discussed a few moments ago.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: Well, I was not in.

Mr. ROCHE: He has to comply with certain conditions which will be recommended by the Board of Commissioners, and approved by the Governor in Council under conditions that will be laid down by regulation.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: In some of the other provinces where land grants were given to veterans on previous occasions