

We have had our difficulties with staff and premises.

If I might depart from my text for a second I should be very glad if the committee would look into this matter. Our two great problems today are staff and space. I would appreciate any co-operation from the committee in regard to definite constructive suggestions especially in regard to space.

The armed forces necessarily took out of the civilian population a disproportionate number of medical practitioners and I have no hesitation in saying that we should have had great difficulty in maintaining the services in our veterans hospitals if the medical corps of the navy, army and air force had not come to our assistance with some of their personnel. Nevertheless while there have been difficulties I do not know of a single instance in which a patient in need of treatment has been unable to find accommodation in our hospitals.

Records of the Veterans' Land Act administration are complete up to August 31, by which date 11,444 applications had been received from former members of the forces, the vast majority since V-E Day. Of these applicants, 4,976 had been approved as qualified.

The total number of properties purchased was 3,163, with an acreage of 404,398. The total cost was \$11,744,477. The average cost of farm land in these transactions has been \$20.10 per acre, and of land for small holdings on the outskirts of towns and cities \$184.33 per acre.

The number of applications for farm loans to August 31st was 720, of which 448 had been approved.

The number of applications for loans on small holdings was 1,073, of which 710 had been approved.

The number of applications from fishermen was 20 and of these 15 had been approved.

The small holding loans just referred to are in connection with developed properties selected by the veteran or sold to the veteran from among properties acquired by the administration. During the present season, the administration is also building 2,700 houses on sub-division properties acquired by the director for this purpose.

I leave my text for a second to mention one very important matter. Those who were here in the committee of 1942 considering the Veterans' Land Act reaffirmed the provision in the old Soldiers Settlement Act that real estate advisors would not be called in in regard to the valuation of properties for soldiers' settlement. Unfortunately that has caused some antagonism all across Canada, and there have been some complaints in regard to the purchase of properties. I recall there was one at Windsor and one at Edmonton. If we have time I should like the committee to call evidence and look into all these complaints and see how far they may be justified. My information from our own regional and local committees is that they are not justified in any case, but if they are justified I should like to have the advice of the committee as to whether they would like to review or revise the opinion given me by the committee of 1942.

Mr. GREEN: Have you given consideration to inviting the real estate exchanges to make representations?

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE: There is no objection as far as I am concerned. There were two specific complaints came to me. In each case I had a body of investigation go into the complaints. The report I have received is that they were not justified, but I would be very happy to have this committee look into it.

Mr. GREEN: I do not know what the condition is in other parts of the country but in our province the real estate organizations are very sound. I think the men are all bonded, and they were very much hurt by the fact they were ruled right out from having anything to do with these men.