

such then one would feel that there was great cogency and force in the question which was put by my hon. friend from Ottawa (Mr. Fripp) this morning, as to what we are going to do with the soldiers who do not get the benefit of going on to a half-section of land with a seven or eight thousand dollar debt. My hon. friend has not homesteaded in the West—at least I do not think so. I have. Therefore I probably view the benefits conferred upon the soldier under this scheme in a very different light, or from a very different angle, than from that of my hon. friend, and any other hon. gentleman in this House who does not know what the difficulties of settling and bringing a farm to success are, even with the great advantages of western Canada today. I say these things not with a view to offering any opposition to the scheme whatsoever, I wish it the most hearty and ample success. I think that probably the Board and the Government will find, and successive governments which have this scheme to administer will find, that the greatest success will be attained in the handling of the two or three classes to whom the minister referred this morning. There are some men, I understand, going in for agricultural training; there are boys going in for training. That is a splendid guarantee in the first place that these men or boys will get enough knowledge of farming to be judges themselves of whether they are fitted to take up farming occupations and likely to succeed in them; and it is a splendid guarantee in the second place that if they do take up the occupation they will have attained the knowledge and the experience, and the training, which gives some reasonable prospect of success.

Among other difficulties attending the scheme—a scheme of unprecedented magnitude—will be found the fact that what we buy for the men going on the land at the present time in the way of cattle, and horses I very much fear will be bought at values which are not likely to be maintained in the course of a few years. I cannot myself, Mr. Chairman, I wish I could on personal grounds, look forward with any confidence to agricultural prices along these lines being maintained in the course of the coming years at the level at which they are now. That, of course, will put the soldier in the position of a man who, in so far as he has means, has invested in cattle or horses, has made a bad investment. It will be different, however, with the land. We may look forward to land still appreciating

in western Canada, and especially we may look forward to that if the success which this scheme deserves is in any fair measure obtained and we have these men settling on the land.

Now I have only one or two further observations to make, and one I am rather frightened to make in the presence of my hon. friend, the leader of the Opposition (Mr. McKenzie). He chided me the other day with the fact that all roads lead to Rome with me—in other words, I cannot speak in this House without talking on the tariff. Well, I will try to put the matter as broadly as I can and not wound my hon. friend's susceptibilities; but I do want to point out very seriously to both sides of this House that a primary and fundamental condition to the success of this scheme is to make farming a profitable occupation. I think the Committee will agree with me in that broad proposition. If farming cannot be made, in the years that are ahead of Canada, a reasonably profitable occupation, then we are launching a huge scheme, at the instance of the Government, which is foredoomed to failure, and we are committing almost a crime against the men whom we send farming. I put it so strongly because I am so sure of my ground. I would like to impress that upon this Committee because I want to go a little further and say, that having settled as a farmer in Western Canada 18 years ago, and being in touch with other farmers of all classes out there, farming was a purely paying occupation before the war. It is a great question if you can raise wheat for 65 cents a bushel as a paying proposition. I very much question if my hon. friend from Victoria, Alta. (Mr. W. H. White), who knows farming conditions in the West probably as well as any member in this House, won't agree with me in that matter.

4 p.m. He resembles myself in having endeavoured for years in the most honest and hardworking way to make farming pay, and he and I have had talks over this proposition in private. We are getting splendid prices for cattle just now. My farm put out steers last fall, two-year old steers, which brought \$125 a head. But since I came to Canada, from the same farm three-year old steers have gone out for \$36 a head. Just imagine a man bringing a calf into the world—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. MICHAEL CLARK: —living with it for three and a half years, and then selling it for the magnificent sum of \$36.