

APPENDIX 22

RE SUPERANNUATION AND PERMANENCY OF STAFF OF SOLDIER SETTLEMENT BOARD

The Superannuation Act of 1924 was intended to cover all permanent positions in the Civil Service and at present covers about 25,000 employees. A percentage of the Soldier Settlement Board employees are asking that they be added to this number.

A draft Bill was prepared for submission to Parliament last session to make employees, who are occupying positions of indeterminate duration, permanent, but the Bill was withheld till the Audit Board of Canada could investigate and report on the work of the Soldier Settlement Board. The report of the Audit Board has been tabled in Parliament and as stated in a reply to a question in the House, is satisfactory.

After deducting all amounts through revaluation and all future losses anticipated by the Audit Board, the Soldier Settlement Board are administering loans amounting to over \$67,000,000 covering about 23,000 farms, on contracts extending as long as 25 years or to 1955, and may be further extended.

The present salary of each and every employee of the Soldier Settlement Board has been approved by Council.

Three hundred and sixty-two members of the staff or 89 per cent of the male staff are returned soldiers. The balance of the 500 employees are females or were minors when the war was on. A large percentage of the returned soldiers served overseas three or four years and have nearly all been 11 years with the Board, making over 15 years service with a probably 25 or more years to come. Surely 35 or more years should constitute permanency. The average ages of the returned soldiers are over 42 years. Not a very good age to commence life in other employment.

No money vote is required.

A draft Bill to extend to the employees of the Soldier Settlement Board the privileges that were given to permanent civil servants by the superannuation Act of 1924, is attached.

In October, 1921, an Order in Council was passed which permitted the transfer of a portion of the temporary employees of the Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment Department and Soldier Settlement Board to the permanent staff and while the employees of the Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment have since been made permanent, the employees of the Soldier Settlement Board are still temporary.

I have met more employees of the rank and file in our sundry offices over Canada than any other official of our Board, from whose statements I know that there is a very decided unrest and a pronounced feeling that they are not receiving the treatment they would if the Government fully realized the justice of their claims.

This memorandum is written voluntarily by a Soldier Settlement Board official, who has not the slightest iota to gain by any proposed legislation, as he has already had all the privileges of permanency and superannuation, although not a returned soldier.

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT.