

*Soldier Settlement Act*

will be revaluation. They have been so handicapped that they have not been able to make ends meet. With the experience these men have had I would much prefer to keep them on the land than to admit new settlers who have yet to acquire experience in the western country. It takes a number of years before they can get the experience necessary to carry on operations successfully. The Minister of the Interior knows, as does the Minister of Railways also, that it takes some years to become familiar with the climatic and farming conditions in the west. I am not going to occupy the time of the House unduly, but during my campaign I came across a number of these settlers who asked me to bring the matter up on the floor of the House and to apply for redress in their behalf. I would suggest that the first minister himself should take a trip into the rural parts of Manitoba instead of paying visits to Regina and Prince Albert, and thus inform himself at first hand of the actual conditions of these men and learn what is going on out in the western country. Having paid \$20 an acre for some of these lands, it is absolutely impossible for these men, even in a period of ten years, to break even, in view of the present conditions and the existing ocean rates and railway rates. For the benefit of the House I have worked out a statement of the operation on a 320-acre farm in western Canada, allotting the settler a period of ten years, giving him twenty bushels to the acre and a price of \$1 per bushel per year, but writing out the whole thing at the end of ten years. When that time arrives the settler has made nothing but a living unless he raises live stock and possibly poultry. If the hon. member for Brandon (Mr. Forke) takes exception to my remarks about raising nothing but wheat I am willing to put my statement, as to such a case, to which I have devoted considerable time and thought, on Hansard for his information. I suggest to the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Stewart) that he should do something towards helping the men to have live stock on the farms, to make them contented and to keep them satisfied.

As to the working of the adjustment and as to how it is to be handled, I will have to leave that to the legal fraternity, and to others who are more acquainted with the details. But from the practical standpoint of the men out in the west, I say it is impossible for them to carry on under present conditions. I would strongly support a measure for a readjustment of the status of the men on the land in the western country.

[Mr. Mullins.]

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. Stewart (Edmonton) thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 17, to amend The Soldier Settlement Act, 1919.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

## SUPPLY

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The House in committee of Supply, Mr. Duff in the chair.

Agriculture—Dairying, including grant of \$5,000 to the National Dairy Council, \$242,000.

Hon. W. R. MOTHERWELL (Minister of Agriculture): Perhaps it would not be amiss if I should briefly review the progress of the dairy industry in Canada during the past twelve months. Probably at no time in the history of Canada have our exports of dairy products been so large since the war, or of such an acceptable nature in the markets of the world or at home. The increase in the exportable production of dairy products in Canada this year is fully forty per cent greater in value than similar exports of last year. The increase in this output has largely come from the west. Dairying has developed with extraordinary strides on the prairies within the last three or four years, but particularly last year. It is gratifying to note that not only has the output increased but the quality has also improved. This remark applies to butter, cheese and other dairy products. It will be noted that there is a slight increase in this vote. This is due to the enlargement of the grading system. Formerly some of the grading was done by provincial inspectors under an arrangement which we had with the three prairie provinces. In order to provide uniformity of inspection and uniformity of service, it has been found advisable, instead of paying the money to the provinces and having them do the grading, to take over the work ourselves and do the grading. Possibly with that explanation of the dairy industry further elaboration will follow as the result of questions by members of the committee.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I was favoured the other day with a piece of party literature sent out by the minister from the Department of Agriculture, a very laboured defence of the Australian treaty policy. The minister knows what I refer to, and he might tell me whether that document was got out at the public expense.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: It was stencilled in my department. I do not think it is campaign literature. It is a plain statement in respect