

Mr. MEIGHEN: The chairman receives \$6,000 per year at present. Each of the two other commissioners, Major Ashton, a returned soldier, and Mr. Maber, receive \$5,000 each. These are the salaries of the board. The other officers are appointed at salaries approved by the Civil Service Commission. Our advisory councils and qualification boards, to whose earnest and competent efforts whatever good there is in our organization is largely due, give their services free. They were composed of the very highest class of citizens in every place where they were appointed—men who were busy with their own occupations and who made a very substantial sacrifice to do this work. In Winnipeg Mr. Cross is chairman, Mr. Robert McKay, of Allan, Killen and McKay, who has been associated with the work from the beginning, is one member of the board and the third is Colonel Grassie. In Regina, Mr. Stiles, Mr. Gibbins and Dr. Mahan are members of the board. There are similar men in Alberta, and they have performed very valuable services to the returned men in the devotion they have shown to this work. Later on, for them and for the qualification boards, we adopted the system of recompensing them for each day of actual work—not the days going and coming—at the rate of \$10 per day. At my special request the hon. member for Westminster District (Mr. Stacey), who is himself a settler and pioneer in British Columbia, went to that province for the purpose of assisting returned men, explaining to them how to come in under the Act, and helping them in every way in his power and he did so with great ability and very evident and satisfactory results.

Mr. PEDLOW: I noticed that earlier in the explanation of the Bill the minister stated that the representative of the Ontario Department of Agriculture in each section of the province would assist the Government in this work. Will the Government have to pay for that assistance, and if so, how much?

Mr. MEIGHEN: There has been no arrangement made to pay these men anything. The duty that falls upon them is very light for the reason that Ontario is very largely settled. These men are the ones to whom the soldier should apply, and if it is a clear case that he is a qualified man and has a proper experience, that ends it; he is accepted as qualified. If there is any doubt about it at all he has to go to the qualification board.

[Mr. Pedlow.]

Mr. PEDLOW: On the recommendation of the Ontario officer?

Mr. MEIGHEN: Yes. But, we have made no arrangement to pay them and we have not paid them anything.

Section agreed to.

On section 6—minister may reserve and transfer lands to board:

Mr. McKENZIE: Does the title to this land remain in the Government or is the title vested in the purchaser?

Mr. MEIGHEN: The title is vested in the board immediately the Governor in Council passes an order turning the land over to the board. That applies to the Dominion lands which have been reserved for soldiers' settlement. As soon as the Order in Council turns the land over to the board, the title is in the board and the board can sell it. As regards private lands purchased, the title is taken by the board in fee simple and the board has a form of agreement which is invariably used. They simply sell by agreement of sale. That is a method that has been used much more in Western Canada than Eastern Canada but it is applicable everywhere. That is the only way we can take care of these obligations because if the method that is more customary in Eastern Canada of putting the title and the mortgage together the expense of making good the title and discharging the mortgage later would be so great that it would impose a burden on the buyer. We have endeavoured to keep our legal costs down to the minimum. We have a scale which I revised, that, I think, is the least the work can be done for, but instead of employing legal firms or legal men in each of the districts, we have a separate legal branch in each of the provinces in charge of a salaried man. We pay all expenses in connection with the loans, we do not charge the soldier anything and we are doing that by establishing in each of the provinces, attached to the board, a legal man.

Mr. McKENZIE: If a soldier goes to a certain place, say in Manitoba, and selects a farm and the board approves of the price, the board, in its own name, makes an agreement of sale with the purchaser?

Mr. MEIGHEN: Yes.

Mr. McKENZIE: Will both documents be of general record in the province?

Mr. MEIGHEN: Yes, we record our titles just the same as the title of any purchaser although under our Act we do not have to.