

COMMITTEE ROOM 436

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

WEDNESDAY, May 14, 1924.

The Special Committee appointed to consider questions relating to Pensions, Insurance and Re-establishment of Returned Soldiers, met at 11.00 o'clock a.m., the Chairman, Mr. Jean J. Denis, presiding.

The CHAIRMAN: We are here to-day to hear Major Barnett, Chairman of the Soldier Settlement Board. He has come here for two purposes; first to give a general statement of the activities of the Board, and, secondly, a statement in regard to this proposed amendment to the law by which land, stock and so forth might be re-valuated. I suppose I need not go into details about these. You know what is meant by re-valuation. Major Barnett is here to give us an explanation about this proposed change in the law. Before proceeding with that, however, I should like to call upon the Clerk for any communications to be placed before this meeting.

The SECRETARY: Mr. Chairman, I have only two communications which I have laid on the table. One is from Mr. J. Valentine, Secretary, Central Ontario Regional Veterans' Alliance, Toronto, a resolution recommending that the time allowed in which to file an appeal before the Federal Appeal Board, namely to August 4th, 1924, be extended to August 4th, 1925. Another, from Walter I. Fawcett, St. Gregor, Saskatchewan, being a petition recommending a revaluation of live stock, equipment, and land in certain cases; also that payments in kind instead of currency be received. He was referring to wheat in his statement. Also a relaxation of what he terms the "rigid residence clause" to enable a settler to hire a substitute under guarantee that the Board's interests will be fully protected.

The CHAIRMAN: This meeting has been called to inquire into land settlements generally and I suppose it is the intention of the Committee not to examine these petitions now but to look into these matters at a later date.

Mr. ARTHURS: I think it is customary that a sub-committee be appointed to deal with correspondence, giving a synopsis of those necessary to come before the whole Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: A sub-committee will be appointed for that purpose.

I understand that Major Barnett will give evidence on the general workings of the Board and its general activities, and more particularly with regard to re-valuation. Is it the pleasure of the Committee that he begin with a general statement concerning the activities of the Board or shall he begin with the question of re-valuation? While it is not my duty to express an opinion, I will say that it seems to me it would be more logical to begin with a general statement regarding the whole situation and then take up the question of re-valuation.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: I suggest it is more logical to take up the general statement preceding any discussion on a particular point. (Carried.)

Mr. BLACK (Yukon): Before this gentleman begins I would like to remark on this report of the proceedings of this Committee especially as to the report of the proceedings of May 2nd, I notice the inaugural address of the Chairman is printed there and also the address of the Minister. Then I notice the following:—