

soldier, or anybody else, if he is a suitable settler and can comply with certain conditions, gets 160 acres. Then, after getting 160 acres of land, he has the benefit of this clause by which he can secure a loan of \$2,500 for the purpose of carrying on. In Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island these lands are not available. There should be some provision for placing these provinces in as advantageous a position as the West for the purpose of securing settlers. A broad, generous policy should be adopted, and where suitable lands are found in these provinces the board which is created by this Bill should have the right of expropriation,—not necessarily a right to be harshly exercised, but the right of expropriation where circumstances warrant it—and these lands should be placed at the disposal of returned soldiers upon such terms as will work out a fair policy for all parts of Canada. There are a good many soldiers who will come back to this country who will not desire to go to the West. Soldiers from the Maritime Provinces, I have no doubt, will prefer to remain there, but under this Bill they will not have the same privileges as men desiring to settle in the West will have. It is a matter of such great importance to the people of this country and to the soldiers who hope to settle on land that a proper policy shall be entered upon that I hope the minister will not put this Bill through committee to-night but that he will take into consideration what I have said and will endeavour to broaden the scope of the Bill to some extent so that powers of expropriation will be given to the board, because in no other way that I can see can fair play be meted out to the provinces and to the soldiers themselves.

Mr. ROCHE: I imagine that there will be so much rivalry between the various provinces to retain their own soldier population within the confines of these provinces that they will be only too pleased to adopt land settlement policies of their own and do the same as the provinces of Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick have already done. New Brunswick is expropriating land other than its own Crown lands. Most of the Crown lands are disposed of but they have a land settlement policy under which they are purchasing unoccupied lands and farms and making them available for returned soldiers. There is no reason why Nova Scotia should not inaugurate a similar policy for her returned soldiers and vie with the other provinces in retaining her own soldier population.

The province of Prince Edward Island sent a deputation here and explained to us that it is their intention to expropriate certain land and they desired to know if they could co-operate with us and take advantage of this loan. We assured them that we would be only too pleased to have them do so. A returned soldier in Nova Scotia, who has a little money of his own and desires to remain in his own province and take up farming, may purchase whatever land he likes but whether he remains in his own province or whether he desires to take up a prairie farm, we will, under the provisions of this Bill, advance him \$2,500 to pay for the farm. That would strike me as being a much fairer policy than that the Government should step in and expropriate land within these provinces for soldiers to locate upon. I am satisfied that the provincial governments would be only too pleased to do their utmost to supply any available Crown lands they have of their own to keep their own soldier population within their own provinces.

Mr. JAMESON: If the minister pursues his argument a little further he will see that, upon his own statement, it is quite unnecessary for the Government to introduce this Bill at all. If the provinces will do it, why have this Bill?

Mr. ROCHE: The hon. gentleman overlooks the \$2,500 entirely.

Mr. JAMESON: No, I am not overlooking it at all. I am speaking of the acquisition of the land. It is going to work a great unfairness to those provinces where the lands are not held in the Crown in the right of the Dominion. Of course, I can do nothing more than express my views to the minister and indicate the course which, in my opinion, the Government should pursue. Instead of adopting this unsatisfactory policy I can only point out what in my judgment would have been a better and a proper policy.

Sir HERBERT AMES: While the Returned Soldiers Committee were meeting a large number of deputations waited upon us, many of which referred to land settlement. We found that no two provinces asked for the same thing in the matter of land settlement, and we have a large number of memorials in our evidence, which members can read for themselves, coming from various provinces with reference to the conditions of settlement of returned soldiers. We found in each case that the pro-