

under treatment and training, loans to vocational students, training and care of the blind, post-discharge dental treatment, the provision of artificial limbs and other appliances for the mutilated, the establishment of employment services throughout the country, and the relief measures extended during the two past winters to the disabled and needy. There has been spent on these various forms of assistance no less a sum than \$102,300,000. It would be both interesting and instructive to go further into the various divisions of the work carried out by this department, but to do so would occupy a considerable length of time, and, save for setting down in Hansard what may be already found in the reports of the department, would not justify the attempt. After all, the above figures speak for themselves, and to any one who has seen fit to investigate the efforts made and still being carried on, these will not come as a surprise.

Next in order is the great work done under the Soldier Settlement Act, which has been attended with a larger measure of success than even the most optimistic dared to hope. This very success has tended to swell the amounts the country has had to advance to establish some 20,000 returned men on farms throughout the Dominion. After deducting repayments of principal received from soldier settlers, etc., to an amount approximating \$4,000,000, we find there still remains a liability for loans made and for cost of management of nearly \$83,000,000. It is believed the progress of the whole scheme to date justifies the hope that a considerable portion of the above amount will be returned to the public treasury with interest, and this assurance must reconcile us to the prospect that large sums must as yet be advanced to applicants who are steadily qualifying themselves to take advantage of the provisions made.

The only other actual expenditure noted is one of \$2,800,000, which it cost the country to transport from overseas the dependents of soldiers. This added to the other four and much larger items, gives us a total of \$442,700,000, which Canada, quite apart from her war effort, has been called upon to raise. Aside from these more definite and striking items of expense, there must not be forgotten the Returned Soldiers' Insurance Act, under which there is a present liability of over \$7,000,000, a liability, however, which will be largely reduced by the premiums to be received from those insured under its pro-

[Mr. Cronyn.]

visions. Then, too, we have the effort made by the Civil Service Commission to find employment for the returned man in the public service. This has resulted in something like 29,000 temporary appointments and about 8,000 ex-service men being installed in permanent public positions. Nor should we lose sight of the effort of the Government to redeem at par any sterling funds which might be brought by the soldiers to Canada. As evidence of how this effort was appreciated may be mentioned the fact that up to date pounds sterling to the value of about \$14,500,000 of our currency have been redeemed without loss to those who took advantage of the offer. The cost of this transaction has not yet been ascertained, but recalling the heavy discount at which sterling stood until a few months ago, it will be seen that the country bore a very substantial loss which otherwise would have fallen upon the ex-service man.

In summarizing the above activities no credit has been taken for the moneys voted and expended in aid of the Federal Housing Project. Although this measure in the province of British Columbia was utilized for the sole advantage of the returned soldier, while in other provinces the same class largely benefited from its operations, yet its aim was a general one and the amount advanced on loan to the provinces and by the provinces to the municipalities should not be included.

Nor has any account been taken of the large sums distributed by the provinces and municipalities without aid from the Dominion, the efforts of the Patriotic Fund, Red Cross and various soldier organizations and philanthropic societies which to a greater or less extent were financed by voluntary contribution. Even without regarding the above named extra federal agencies, Canada as a whole, through the Dominion authorities has raised between \$450,000,000 and \$500,000,000 in redemption of her promise to care for the returned man. Even in these days of big figures and huge deficits the above are not small sums and may at least be taken as an earnest that the country is not unmindful of her obligation.

It was perhaps not within the competence of the committee to estimate what in future will be spent to further implement that obligation, but after some inquiry along these lines the conclusion was reached, having regard to pension payments, to the activities under the other branches of the Department of Soldiers'