

does not ask for anything in the way of a loan, is there any provision whereby he can take advantage of the other privileges?

Mr. MEIGHEN: I am just a little doubtful whether a man on provincial crown lands, that he does not own, can come under the law now. I do not think he can become a settler under the Act and be entitled to an advance for machinery, etc. But under this statute we will be enabled to make arrangements with the provinces whereby we will be able to do that. We want to do it. I do not see why a man who is located on provincial crown lands, if he has something that he can make a living on, should be denied one iota of assistance given to the man who located on Dominion crown lands. There should be no discrimination in that regard provided of course the province is ready to do for us what we can do for ourselves in regard to Dominion lands; that is to say, give us the land as security. In the case of the provincial crown lands such as the hon. member for Fort William (Mr. Manion) has just described, and of which I know there are considerable areas, we hope to make an arrangement with the provinces whereby they will place this land at our disposal for soldier settlement, the board to supply the money needed to purchase stock and equipment just the same as if the soldier were settling on Dominion land with the provision that if the soldier makes good and keeps the land it is all over and the province has no interest in it; nor has the Dominion. That is the purpose that the provinces have in mind in dealing with these lands; they want the lands settled, but they do not want anything out of them. In the event of the soldier not succeeding and the lands reverting to the board, then it would seem a fair arrangement that the board should hold the land only for what was then against it and that after that the province should take the land. That might be worked out. If there is to be given to the province a supervision as to the amount advanced in the first place, accepting the approval of the province to it, and then if the soldier abandons the land, we can give the province the option of repurchase at the amount against the land. That would be, it seems to me, a fair arrangement as to provincial Crown lands. If the provinces will enter into an arrangement of that kind there should be no difficulty in our going ahead with it.

Mr. ARTHURS: How will it be where the soldier already has title?

[Mr. Arthurs,]

Mr. MEIGHEN: If the soldier has title the matter is all right now. He can come in at once and get \$2,500 on his land, \$2,000 on his chattels, and \$1,000 for improvements just the same as the others provided he passes the qualification board and subject to the qualifications the same as other people.

Mr. M. CLARK: If I may be permitted, I should like to express to the committee my own feeling of great appreciation of the lucid explanation the minister has given to the scheme and the strong, further evidence he has afforded to us of the tremendous zeal with which he does an almost incalculable amount of public service. I should like, coupled with that expression of opinion, to voice the hope that this scheme will meet with the generous success which such zeal ought to obtain. I say that being as fully alive as I think the average farmer who has been a settler in the West for eighteen years may be to the difficulties of the scheme, I should be less than human in sympathy if I elaborated those difficulties to the minister because I know that he is well aware of them even by this time in the chronology of the launching of this effort. The amount of public money that will be laid out in the long run, supposing a forecast of the board is at all accurate, it may be readily calculated, will be between \$200,000,000 and \$300,000,000.

Well, that is a large sum of money. I am bound to say that, listening to the minister, I thought that every possible human safeguard that could be devised had been devised. I think that those responsible for the scheme have gone into it with the utmost care, but it would not be right, perhaps, if some member of the Committee didn't put himself on record as seeing what the difficulties of the scheme are. From 30,000 to 50,000 returned soldiers settled upon the land would, I am sure, to every member of this Committee, be a most desirable thing to bring about, but having regard to the psychology of those soldiers, one cannot help having very grave doubts about the retaining of them on the land. I have had a little personal difficulty with some returned soldiers myself, and there has been considerable difficulty in retaining some who have had the chance of going on the land under much more favourable conditions than are offered under this scheme.

I am glad the minister made it clear to the Committee that this is a scheme for the benefit of Canada; it is not primarily, I take it, a scheme for the benefit of the returned soldier. If it were represented as