

the failures. It is not from the point of view of the Department of Finance so much; it is to find the causes and effects and if possible to find a remedy for them.

WITNESS: I was avoiding the question of the causes of failure. I took as part of the settlers' claim for relief by way of re-valuation, capital indebtedness or something of that nature. I was avoiding dealing this morning with the causes of failure. Before going further with regard to this general statement, there is one thing that I think possibly should be mentioned here, and that is the alteration that was made in the law as a result of the report of the last Committee. The last Committee reported, and amendments were made to the Act carrying out the report of the Committee and providing for a consolidation of all indebtedness of soldier settlers and a fresh start was made, and it was re-consolidated from 1922. That is, all the debt at that time was re-consolidated, and 25 years' time, irrespective of contracts, irrespective of old Acts was given for the payment of indebtedness from that time. In addition to that, of course, there was an extension of the time for repayment of advances for stock and equipment, from 4 to 6 years to 25 years. Then there was the concession of waiving interest for 4, 3 or 2 years, depending on the date when the settler got his advance. Now, the importance of that is this, if you want the figures to deal with the question of the cause of failure and all that, it really should only go back practically for the two years. It is the situation in the last two years that is the material thing; not so much what has gone before, and I would like to know from the Committee in preparing this statement if that would meet their wishes. That is, to prepare with some elaboration statements showing the situation in the past two years; that would give the aggregate, of course.

MR. SPEAKMAN: If a suggestion is wanted, I would suggest this. In considering the question of re-valuation of any farm, we would like to know the effect of the changes made in 1922. That is, we would like to know the percentage of failures due to financial causes after the passing of the amendments, as compared with the failures due to financial causes before the passing of the amendments, so that we may judge of the actual relief afforded by the amendments as between the period before 1922 and the period after. We should be able to get an intelligent idea of what further amendments might be necessary. I think it would make a very good basis of comparison, by showing what actually happened in respect of the changes made.

The WITNESS: That is exactly the thing I wanted to know.

MR. CARROLL: I thought, too, it might be a good idea if we got a concrete statement—not so much this report, but a concrete statement along the lines of this report so that comparisons might be made. The witness is not giving us a general report. For example, take any page you see there; "Total acreage" for instance; could you not have a statement prepared showing in a smaller way the facts that are set forth in this report of 1923?

The WITNESS: Yes.

MR. CALDWELL: You will find that this report is fairly well boiled down at the end here.

MR. CARROLL: But I think it would be easier for the witness and easier for the Committee to make comparisons. That is what we are here for, to make comparisons and by them to suggest changes if any. The statement the witness is giving us today is very difficult to follow.

The CHAIRMAN: You mean that you want a report on the same lines as this, with the same chapters and the same headings as much as possible, including 1923, so that members of the Committee can refer from one to the other and make comparisons?

MR. CARROLL: Yes, brought up to date, brought up to the end of the fiscal year, March 31st, or as far as we can get it.

[Major John Barnett.]