

to pay interest, if nothing else, for two or three years. The great thing is that they shall not be obliged to use up what capital they have, whether it is loaned to them by the Government, or whether it is their own. I live out in the western country and I generally know what I am talking about with regard to matters pertaining to the West. I will give you an instance as indicating the accuracy of the statements I have made. Three years ago about forty families came from the United States and settled about twenty miles south of me, on land they had purchased. Last spring twenty-nine of those families went away, and the rest will follow them. They gave up simply because the payments were too large and came too fast, and they thought they had better go while the going was good. The principle of the thing is this: the people who are there must have a certain capital to work on, unless they want to go away back and homestead, in which case they can make their own capital, as the first homesteaders did. Of course, it takes a great many years to do this, and I do not know that we have very many people who would care to do it at the present time. I do not believe the soldiers will want to do it.

Mr. CURRIE: Will the hon. gentleman repeat what he said about the soldiers?

Mr. MACNUTT: The soldiers would not care to go away and isolate themselves a long distance from the railways and from civilization, because they are so accustomed to community life. Of course, some of them might do it. At the same time, I think it would be far better if they settled on some good lands, of which there are millions of acres in the West, in the hands of different companies. If they were able to buy these lands on easy terms, I think it would be far better than if they went away from civilization altogether. It would be to the advantage of the country, because when you put in a lot of settlers, before long they will require transportation facilities, and you will be obliged to build new railroads for them. We have railroads now running through these lands, and our country roads are getting into pretty good shape. We also have our schools, and our little towns. These towns would become larger and the business men would become more successful; they would have more customers, and living might possibly become cheaper on that account. The country will have a great burden to bear later on, altogether apart from the soldiers. The

[Mr. MacNutt.]

more settlers come into the country the easier the burden will be borne, and if you make it so attractive that the settlers will come, they will bear their share of the burden. It is a wonderful country, but there is no use trying to settle it and then have the people leave the land, because if that happens matters are a great deal worse than they were before. There are altogether too many abandoned farms at the present time. I know of a man who lived about two miles from me, who came up from the United States and bought a section of land. Last winter he sold everything and went back to the States to live on an eighty-acre farm. He found the payments were coming too fast.

Mr. CURRIE: Was it also because German is taught in the schools there, and he could not have his children taught English?

Mr. MACNUTT: No, nothing of the kind. There is no German taught there. If the hon. gentleman would go out there and live for about three years, he would know something about the country. A little trip through the West once in a while does not give one very much knowledge of it. The point I was making was that it is of no benefit to the country, or to anybody, to get people in unless they become successful and stay there. Neither is it a good plan to make it too easy for them to come into the country. We want the right class of settlers, who know some effort is required on their part, and who know they can make a success of it if they put forth the effort. If, however, they are up against heavy land payments, which come too fast, they will simply get broken-hearted and leave the country, and the result will be a worse state of affairs than before.

Mr. OLIVER: Section 6, which deals with the loans and the payments of interest, is specific. I was asking that similar specific provisions be made with regard to the use to which the lands would be put, that is with regard to the settlement duties. I think it is very much more necessary that the settlement duties should be indicated in the Act than it is that the terms of the loans should be set out, although I find no fault with the latter, on the contrary I think it is very commendable.

Section agreed to.

Bill reported, read a third time, and passed.

On motion of Sir Thomas White the House adjourned at 9.45 p.m.