

many calamities of the war, they had to some extent lost. The presentation of the present problem, in addition to the many problems with which the Government has already grappled in this connection, will be a matter of very great interest. This problem is one which must necessarily command the attention of the Government, and I hope some way may be found of meeting the views which have been expressed so ably by my honourable friend from Alma. It is needless to say that the committee for which my honourable friend has moved will have a very important subject to deal with, and I am sure that it will be the desire, not only of the Government, already engaged in this work, but of every honourable member of this House, that this subject shall receive the very best attention and interest at our hands, and that such action may be taken as will result in very great benefit to the men who are concerned.

Hon. T. S. SPROULE: Honourable gentlemen, I regard the proposal made on this occasion as very good, very timely, and very appropriate. The problem is, I presume, one which most people are thinking about to-day: what is the best thing that can be done with the returned soldiers? Those institutions which are providing for vocational training on various lines are undoubtedly proceeding in the right direction, and will absorb a large number of the returned soldiers; but, there are many of the men who left farms and are more familiar with farm life and farm work than with any other line. One of the difficulties with which I apprehend they will be confronted on their return, if they contemplate settling down to agricultural life again, will be the question, where can they settle so as to avoid the lonesomeness of life on the farm and have the advantages of the company and the freedom which they have enjoyed in the last few years, and which have become part and parcel of their life worked into it to such an extent as to have become second nature. The next difficulty with which they will be confronted will be the management of a farm. What makes for the success or failure of farm life? It is the knowledge of how to put in the crop, where to put it in, how to provide for the care of it, when to market it, how to prepare it for the market, and all these things. Now, I foresee in this proposal a very valuable and important suggestion which might be made, and that is, that if a large

number of these men were located within a reasonable distance of one of these farms, the employees of the farm could give an oversight to their work and give them instructions from day to day and from week to week on the various problems of farm life on which they would require to be informed, and encourage them to take advantage at the right time of the opportunities offered to them, and which would make for their success or failure in proportion as they attended or did not attend. I think some scheme might be worked out whereby these farm hands could be made very valuable in educating returned soldiers and in keeping them in touch with the operations of the life in which they are engaged. They could give them valuable information and advice with regard to machinery, grains that might be grown, or the lines of agricultural industry which might be followed in their particular locality. They could advise them as to whether dairying, bee-keeping, stock raising, grain raising or any other line would bring the greatest returns to those engaged in it. This would keep their interest centred to such an extent that they would probably solve the farming problem successfully, instead of becoming tired of it and may be becoming absolute failures. I think there would be fifty chances to one in favour of success under this system as compared with what would be the result if returned soldiers were sent individually into Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, or Alberta, and left to settle down by themselves, buy any machinery that they liked and go into any class of farming they chose, without being given proper information. If this problem is not taken hold of, they will become tired of farm life and go back to the cities. If this suggestion were acted upon, these men would be in closer touch with society in their localities and with those things that are of value to them. I regard it as probable that forty-eight out of fifty would be more likely to make a success under this system than five out of a hundred would make if they were sent out to the farms individually therefore it meets with my hearty approval.

Hon. Mr. McLENNAN: I shall just detain the House for a moment in order to say that the Military Hospitals Commission, of which Hon. Sir James Lougheed is chairman, and which has the care of returned soldiers, is quite in sympathy with the