

Supply—Soldier Land Settlement

Mr. FORKE: I do not seem to have the figures just at hand.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: What was the total amount which should have been paid by the settlers from the fall of 1922, when there was a consolidation, up to date? How much was due from them and how much have they paid? I would like to know those figures in order to ascertain just what position we are in, and in order to do so I must find out how much was due and how much was paid. I think the chairman of the board must have that form which is handed out every year showing the amount due and the amount paid during that year, and I only want the aggregate of those sums from 1922 to date.

Mr. FORKE: Perhaps you had better go on while the chairman is looking for those figures.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: I will leave it there for the moment, although it is rather difficult for me to proceed as I had intended. Can the minister say what is the average size of the farms held by the soldier settlers and the average indebtedness, including loans for all purposes, charged against those farms?

Mr. FORKE: The average size would run around 240 acres, I suppose, but I have not the average loan before me.

Sir GEORGE PERLEY: While these figures are being looked up for my hon. friend from Red Deer I would like to make a comment which strikes me on looking at this vote. I do not understand how it is possible for the advances at this late date to amount to as much as \$690,000 in a year. There are no new soldier settlers going on the land, as I understand it, and the advances were supposed to be made long ago.

Mr. FORKE: Of course we have been paying taxes and keeping the land in good standing; we have paid insurance premiums, seed and feed have been furnished in some cases and in other cases initial payments have been returned. In other words, some improvements have been put on the farms, and those amounts are all charged up against the land.

Sir GEORGE PERLEY: Are these all fresh advances made to the same men who secured advances some years ago?

Mr. FORKE: Yes, these are recoverable advances charged against the land.

Mr. GARDINER: What was the amount of taxes paid last year?

Mr. FORKE: About \$250,000.

[Mr. Speakman.]

Mr. McRAE: Can the minister say how many soldiers are in arrears?

Mr. SPEAKMAN: Perhaps the minister might give me the information I have requested.

Mr. FORKE: The original loans amounted to \$112,551,042, and at present the amount outstanding is \$73,100,111.30.

Sir GEORGE PERLEY: How much of that amount represents arrears?

Mr. SPEAKMAN: It would be of particular value if I could ascertain how much in the aggregate was due from 1922 to the present time and how much has been paid by the settlers during that time. That will give me the information I require as to our position in this regard.

Mr. FORKE: It is a little difficult to get those figures.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: I will be satisfied to take the figures right from the beginning but I thought I was making it easier in this way because there was a consolidation in 1922.

Mr. FORKE: The unpaid interest amounts to \$3,854,648 at present.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: That is of some assistance to me.

Mr. FORKE: The total amount due and unpaid as of October 1 last was \$5,392,838. Of all the soldier settlers, 88.5 per cent have either paid in full or paid a percentage.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: That number has paid something?

Mr. FORKE: Yes.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: I want to find out the total amount due from 1922 to the present time; what percentage of the amount due has been paid?

Mr. FORKE: The information I have is that the initial payments amounted to \$6,245,505; the repayments of principal amounted to \$20,934,029; the repayments of interest amounted to \$12,271,395; making total payments of \$39,450,930, leaving a balance due of \$73,100,111.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: The percentage of the total amount due which has been paid is shown for each year, but I want to get the aggregate amount.

Mr. FORKE: That information is not divided up in that way.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: Then there is no use of my pressing for an answer.