

SOLDIER SETTLERS' HEIRS.

The Committee heard representations to the effect that heirs of settlers should be permitted to carry on after their decease. On this point,

The Committee was assured by the Board that such was the invariable practice, unless it was absolutely certain that the heirs would be unable to make a livelihood.

RETURN OF THE PERCENT DEPOSIT

Recommendations were received by the Committee to the effect that in cases where settlers had been obliged to abandon, by reason of disability or other cause not due to the fault of the settler, the original cash deposit should be returned.

Bearing in mind the difficulties of the transition period after abandonment, the Committee recommends that the Board be empowered to carry out this suggestion in its discretion, dealing with each case on its merits.

SOLDIER GRANTS

Evidence was heard by the Committee requesting rescission of the provision of the Soldier Settlement Act, which bars settlers from securing soldier grants in cases where such settlers are wholly or in part owners of land to the value of \$5,000, or more. It was stated that the value of the land had proved to be a sufficient bar, even though the settler's actual equity was exceedingly small.

Originally, the issuing of soldier grants was entirely within the discretion of the Soldier Settlement Board, the present limitation having been put into effect in or about the year, 1919.

After due consideration, the Committee is of the opinion that the limitation ought to be removed, leaving full discretion to the Soldier Settlement Board, as in the first instance.

CROWN LANDS AND BREAKING LOANS

The Committee heard evidence to the effect that settlers on Crown Lands were frequently found to be labouring under heavy handicaps due to difficulties in bringing under cultivation sufficient land.

The Committee recommending that where reasonable development is being retarded by lack of sufficient resources the Board should assist in these cases by making necessary advances for breaking or clearing.

TAXES

The Committee's recommendation in this regard is shown in its interim report, adopted by the Convention and attached hereto. In this connection, it should be pointed out that the Board is not under obligation to pay taxes on behalf of the settler. The recommendation is based on the fact that, where the Board finds it advisable to pay taxes, every effort should be made to minimize penalties.

DISCRIMINATION

It was suggested in evidence before the Committee that instances had occurred in which settlers had been discriminated against by the Board officials by reason of their activities in Canadian Legion affairs.

The Committee would be extremely reluctant to give credence to these suggestions, and was greatly relieved to have the assurance of the Board that, if any such cases could be shown, the offender would be severely dealt with.