

to the government. Only last May a delegation of nine placed their case fairly and squarely before the Minister of Mines and Resources (Mr. Crerar) and five other members of the cabinet. I think it is not necessary for me to recite the action that was taken at that time. Nothing was done, and when I say nothing I mean just that, except to appoint a committee of the cabinet which I understand has never met. After the house adjourned on August 14, the Minister of Mines and Resources made a statement that the government did not see fit to grant clear titles.

I believe those men had a just case. There are several reasons for that belief but I am not going to enumerate them to-night. They were asked to pay five per cent interest on their current debts and seven per cent on arrears, as compared with three and a half per cent being charged under the present scheme. Under the present set-up provision is made to grant thirty-nine per cent of the original amount advanced for the purchase of land, live stock and implements. As I have said, the average amount still owing of \$1,254 by these old settlers is equal to only twenty-nine per cent of their original indebtedness.

At the end of last March \$7,715,000 would have provided clear titles for all these old veterans. That amount is equivalent to about sixty-five cents for every one of our Canadian population. Sixty-five cents is the price of one meal and a small meal at that, and yet that amount paid by each person in Canada would clear up the indebtedness of the old soldier settlers and give them a breathing space for the rest of their days.

A number of us who sit in this House of Commons are much younger than many of these old veterans, and I can fancy some of us going out and trying to make a living and pay the debt on a quarter or half-section of land. For instance, I can imagine the Minister of Mines and Resources, under whose direction this scheme has been operated for a number of years, having to go out without a dollar in his pocket, as many of these old veterans did, and try to pay off his debt.

I can imagine how that gentleman would feel when he took his grain to the elevator and found that the grade he received was one or two grades below what it should be. I can imagine how he would feel when he found that he was not getting the weight to which he was entitled. I can imagine how he would feel if the amount he finally received was far below the cost of production. I take the Minister of Mines and Resources as an example, but my remarks would apply to all hon. members. Whether we sit on the gov-

ernment or the opposition benches, we all have a responsibility to these victims of great war 1. I say victims because these men have been persecuted by reason of the action of former governments. I am not blaming the Conservatives any more than I blame the Liberals; they all must share the responsibility.

I am making this claim again to-night in the honest belief and firm conviction that the government would save money by granting clear titles to this land right away. Any one who takes the time to figure out this matter will see that the government would be ahead. In the past it has cost \$1,100,000 a year to administer the scheme, so that within seven or eight years the amount would be cleared up.

We have at stake the welfare of the veterans who will come under the new Veterans Land Act. There is considerable unrest at the present time among old soldier settlers, many of whom have sons and daughters on active service to-day. Therefore I think you can look for trouble in connection with the new act and that is why I repeat to-night the request which I have made on other occasions.

Mr. SPEAKER: The motion before the house hardly covers the machinery of the Veterans Land Act, and I would like the hon. member to confine his remarks to the motion before the house.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 7 WITH REFERENCE TO ADJOURNMENT AT ELEVEN O'CLOCK

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I have known throughout the day that hon. members were hoping and expecting that it might be possible to conclude the debate this evening. I believe it would be possible if hon. members are prepared to sit after eleven o'clock. If they are prepared, it would be necessary for me to make a motion, and if the house will give its approval I shall do so.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING moved:

That the house shall not be adjourned at eleven o'clock to-day.

Motion agreed to.

THE WAR

POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT IN MAINTAINING VIGOROUS WAR EFFORT—CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON MOTION OF THE PRIME MINISTER

The house resumed consideration of the motion of the Prime Minister (Mr. Macken-