

of northern Saskatchewan, who joined the first battalion early in the war and was demobilized in 1919. When he returned he was placed on land purchased by his father. The father never lived on the land, the soldier himself having lived there from the time it was purchased. Since this man has not had any revaluation of that land, no discount, while others who apparently were never in the front line trenches have had a revaluation, will the minister investigate the matter and see that justice is meted out to this returned man, who is trying to make a living on that land in northern Saskatchewan.

Hon. W. A. GORDON (Acting Minister of Immigration and Colonization): Had the hon. member referred this inquiry to me or to the soldier settlement board, the information would have been promptly forthcoming. There is no question in my mind, without even referring to the file, that this returned soldier would have received a revaluation under the remedial legislation passed by this house if he had fallen within the statute as then passed. There is no question about it. In all the files I have reviewed I have never come across one single case where a returned soldier was refused the right to take advantage of this remedial legislation. As regards the present case, I will look into the matter and a reply will be given either directly to the hon. member or in the house.

Mr. McINTOSH: I might say for the benefit of the minister—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. McINTOSH: I am giving him information. I might say for the benefit of the minister that every request made of the department met with but one answer, namely, "Mr. Murphy is not a returned man"—referring to the soldier's father. I think it is time an impartial investigation was held and the matter cleared up, because up to the moment nothing has been done—nothing but discouragement to the soldier affected.

#### FARM RELIEF—SASKATCHEWAN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. F. DONNELLY (Willow Bunch): I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. I have here a telegram which I have received from the secretary of representatives of eleven villages in the drought-stricken area of southern Saskatchewan. They state that they are unable to pay their share

of the cost of direct relief this winter because they have not the money. They are willing, however, to obligate themselves to repay later on their share of the amount required. Will the Prime Minister assure the house that the government will help these villages to finance the situation so that they may be in a position to take care of their destitute in the coming winter. Is he willing to confer with the representatives from this drought-stricken area with a view to enabling them to meet the situation?

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): The position has been made so clear and so many times that one is rather surprised that such a question should be asked by any hon. member. The Dominion government has no contact with villages or other municipalities. They will make their claim to the provincial administration and the government of the province communicates with the dominion. It is the only constitutional means by which communication can be maintained between the municipalities and the dominion, namely, through the provinces; and in all other provinces, as in that province, such communications are going on from time to time as the occasion may necessitate. If the villages will communicate with their government at Regina, I am perfectly certain that that government will take the proper action.

Mr. DONNELLY: I want to thank the Prime Minister for the consideration he has given these destitute people.

#### RADIO COMMISSION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. JOSEPH A. BRADETTE (Timiskaming-North) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, according to a newspaper item recently published, the radio commission is to undertake an inspection tour, shortly, throughout Canada. In the absence of the hon. Minister of Marine (Mr. Duranleau), perhaps the hon. Solicitor General (Mr. Dupré), might inform the house whether it would be possible for the commission to begin its inspection in New Ontario, where radio reception is very poor?

Hon. MAURICE DUPRE (Acting Minister of Marine) (Translation): In reply, may I state that nothing has been decided in this respect. However, I shall be pleased to communicate to the commission the wishes of my hon. colleague.