

APPENDIX No. 6

for myself, they interfere with my general conception of the statement. If acceptable to the Committee, I would suggest that the witness be allowed to make a general statement, and then we can get a consecutive idea of what is in his mind, and afterwards we can ask all the questions we desire to ask. As it is now, the witness has certain ideas in his mind, but the questions prevent them from getting into my mind, because there are so many different phases of the matter.

Mr. CALDWELL: I agree that that is correct and proper.

Mr. ARTHURS: I think so too. I think that when matters of this kind are brought up the statements should be consecutive. One member of the Committee will ask questions about one thing, and immediately another member will ask questions about a totally different point. The report of the proceedings will be much clearer if we practically close one side of the case before taking up another.

Mr. CARROLL: Let us clear up each point as we go along.

The CHAIRMAN: I think it is the opinion of the Committee that the witness should be allowed to go right through with his statement, and then what we might call cross-examination can proceed afterwards and all kinds of questions can be asked about his statement. We will proceed with his statement.

Mr. CALDWELL: I may say, by way of explanation that I did not know that the witness was giving a general statement.

Mr. MACLAREN: I was not referring particularly to Mr. Caldwell. It is the principle of the thing to which I wish to draw attention.

Mr. CALDWELL: I imagine that the report is being taken in full this morning. In view of the fact that this report of the Soldier Settlement Board is a year old I presume that later on we will have it up to date.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. CALDWELL: Then I think we should hear this report from the witness and when it is in our hands take it up and go into the details.

Mr. CARROLL: That is, the witness will come back again?

Mr. CALDWELL: Yes, that is what I would like.

WITNESS: I have not got a statement here, but I will have it on the same basis as this statement. This is based entirely on repayments that are made by settlers. The statement I was using was the total revenue statement, and I was endeavouring to show how the country stands with regard to this, the general debit against us, the general revenue that has been received, so as to give you some perspective of the actual financial situation, irrespective of the settlers to whom actual loans have been granted.

By Mr. Caldwell:

Q. Will your statement give the details as to how much was repayment of loans, how much was initial payments, and how much was derived from salvaged sales?—A. I will have a statement prepared. There are so many ways in which you can prepare these statements. There are so many angles from which you can look at the matter. Unless one knows what the members of the Committee are after, it is difficult to foresee the line which the statement should take. It is very difficult. If you are looking at it from the point of view of the Finance Department, the statement will assume one aspect; if you look at it from another point of view, it will assume another aspect. The figures are all reconciled, but they leave out many things.

Mr. CALDWELL: In order to assist the Chairman of the Board as to what we want, speaking for myself, I would like details of the initial payments, the amount received on account of salvages so that we may arrive at the cause of

[Major John Barnett.]