

be with you. Make a home for yourself in this free country. That is another way of looking at the matter and I merely throw out the suggestion. I hope that the scheme will be satisfactory and that this country will to a very great extent be developed by the settling down of these good men on the land. I trust we shall be able to get through with this Bill without very much criticism, as I believe it has been very fully explained by the Minister.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I should explain that in Clause 3 on page 3, in the definition of "settler" the limitation in the 13th line contained in the words "and has been otherwise than dishonourably discharged," etc., appertains to all three classes.

Mr. ANDREWS: For over a year now, associated with some of my comrades, I have considered the Land Settlement Scheme very closely, and I have no hesitation in saying to-day that after a most careful consideration of the whole matter I think this is absolutely the best land scheme in the world. I have lived in the West, not eighteen but thirty years, and I think that if a man cannot afford to pay the present prices of land in the West the country is no good. Now I know that the country is good, and I know that the men are good, and therefore the success of the scheme is assured. A friend of mine from Winnipeg, who looks after the interests of the selection board and who has been in the land business for something like thirty years, told me that over 90 per cent of the men who had already availed themselves of the scheme were practical farmers, of good descent. Altogether I congratulate the Government most heartily on the move.

Mr. PECK: Were those who were under sentence at the end of the war and were pardoned in the general amnesty be regarded as dishonourably discharged?

Mr. MEIGHEN: I really cannot answer that question. In the old Act we had "honourably discharged" but we found in operation that some soldiers did not get anything that could be called an honourable discharge, although there was such a thing as being released from the army under dishonourable circumstances. We therefore changed it to these words "otherwise than dishonourably discharged."

Mr. GRIESBACH: What is his position when discharged at the termination of his sentence?

[Mr. McKenzie.]

Mr. MEIGHEN: That, I think, would be a dishonourable discharge.

Mr. GRIESBACH: No. Having served his sentence he is discharged in the ordinary way, if his sentence does not provide for his dismissal. He is not dishonourably discharged merely because he has served a sentence.

Mr. MEIGHEN: When a man applies, his name goes automatically to the Militia Department and they are asked if he comes in under these classes. They decide whether he has been otherwise than dishonourably discharged.

Mr. PEDLOW: Adverting to subsection (s) of section 2, it seems to me that one of the most deserving classes of those who have gone overseas is the nursing sister. I am sure every hon. member who is a soldier will bear me out when I say that they have conducted themselves in the war with honour to themselves and this country. They gave unstinted service in the cause of the Empire, sacrificed the comforts of home, and left pleasant, congenial surroundings to take a strenuous part in the war and share in its hardships, discomforts and terror. I think that the minister would be justified, in view of this fact, in allowing the nursing sisters at least to qualify for a part of the considerations that are provided in this Act and to homestead, to the extent of what is called a soldier's grant of land. Having made an application of this nature, I think the department has already ruled in effect that nursing sisters are entitled to this consideration. I would not be positive, but I think I have a letter on file to that effect. I made application on behalf of a nursing sister who is still overseas, having been there four and a half years. I asked that her father be allowed to make a homestead entry for her and the reply I received states distinctly, I am morally certain, that under the law her father could not make the application for her and that she would have to wait until her return. I think this is as reasonable as the claim made by the hon. member for Maple Creek on behalf of widows and particularly those whose only sons had been killed overseas. I think it is equally reasonable and should merit particular consideration before the Committee passes this section of the Bill.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Widows are, of course, specifically included. They are included in the 1917 Act and have the right to soldier entry, but every one—nursing sisters and all