

Orders in Council. Following the same line of argument that I used a day or two ago, regarding game preservation in the Northwest Territories, I would respectfully urge that the conditions upon which the settler may acquire the land and the use he must make of it should be set down in plain terms in the Act, so that everybody could see exactly what they are. I think that is only fair to the soldier, and only fair to the country and everybody else.

Mr. ROCHE: The trouble lies in the impossibility of knowing at this time just what conditions should be imposed. As a matter of fact the commission will determine that, and we will act upon their recommendations. The commissioners will recommend regulations to us which will set forth conditions such as are set forth in section 3. That is the manner in which it has been done in New Zealand, Australia, and the other British colonies. In both New Zealand and Australia there is very little in the statutes. Their Acts are mere skeletons. I have the New Zealand regulations before me, and the Act is administered almost entirely by a set of regulations which were recommended by the local board. I cannot see how it would be possible in passing this Bill to impose the conditions under which this land may be secured when, as a matter of fact, the Governor in Council will have to depend upon the commissioners for knowledge of those conditions.

Mr. OLIVER: I do not see the matter in the same light as the minister has placed it. The Government is asking the House to assent to a provision of a very important nature, when we have no knowledge as to what we are assenting to. We simply give a blank cheque to the Government for them to fill in as they please. In my judgment that is not good legislation, and is not fair either to the soldier or to the country. The fact that this is done in Australia, or in New Zealand, or in some other country, does not at all settle the question so far as Canada is concerned. We have greater experience in the matter of the settlement of homestead lands than either Australia or New Zealand could possibly have, and instead of our being guided by their action, I should think our action would be a guide for them, allowing, of course, for the great difference in climatic conditions which make it impossible for us to accept the land regulations of Australia and New Zealand as being applicable to Canada. I may go

so far afield for a moment as to say that during this session of Parliament we have been taking part of our legislation from London and part from Washington, and we have made no objection to it, but when we begin to bring in legislation from New Zealand and Australia, I think it is really overdoing what may be a very good thing. In making any arrangement for the disposition of our own lands, to our own soldiers, we should let our people know exactly what we are doing beforehand, so that there may be no misunderstanding as to the character of the offer we are making.

Upon this condition depends the whole character of the offer. The conditions may be such as will actually debar the settler from taking advantage of it, or receiving any advantage from it. On the other hand, the conditions may be such as to create a situation in which the country will suffer very seriously instead of being benefited.

Mr. ROCHE: I would call my hon. friend's attention to section 8, which provides that:

(1) The Board may, with the approval of the Governor in Council, make regulations,—

(a) Prescribing the manner in which entries for land and applications for loans may be made;

(b) prescribing the conditions upon which free entries and patents for the land may be granted and issued.

—and so on. The hon. gentleman will see that the Board itself, with the approval of the Governor in Council, makes the regulations. I think that would accomplish the purpose that he has in view. I am sure that there will be a disposition on the part of the Board, as well as of the Governor in Council, no matter what Government is in power, to deal most leniently with the soldiers and to make the conditions bear as lightly upon them as is consistent with carrying out the policy which we all have in view. I cannot see the necessity of incorporating certain of the conditions upon which they get the land in detail in the statute. I think that a certain latitude must be allowed to the Board to lay down conditions by way of regulation, as they have done in New Zealand and Australia.

Mr. OLIVER: It has been recognized as being necessary, ever since we began to administer homestead lands, that the conditions under which those homestead lands might be acquired should be set out in the