

Re the reduction of principal. The government of British Columbia, having a similar problem to deal with, though on a smaller scale in the Merville soldier settlement scheme, recognized that a physical revaluation was impracticable, and granted relief by making a straight thirty-five per cent cut in all loans. This has been received by the people of British Columbia, as being the most equitable solution of the problem. A precedent has been established and the ex-servicemen of Canada have no hesitation in drawing the attention of the federal government to it, confidently believing that relief in similar form will be granted.

I would be very glad to put on Hansard all the arguments that are contained in this synopsis, but I am afraid the rules of the House would not permit me to do so. I would, however, direct the attention of the minister to these arguments. I presume he has received a copy, but if not, I should be glad to supply him with the copy I have.

In my constituency there are a great number of returned soldiers. I know what those men have had to contend with. I know that they went on the land in a great many cases without the necessary knowledge to enable them to make a success. I know that certain of those men got land which was not suitable for their purpose at all. I know this also, that those men with very few exceptions have done their very best to make good. They have had difficulties of all kinds to contend with, particularly on the brush lands, but they have done splendid work and in no case that I am aware of have those men got a fair return for their work. I say to the government that it is only right and proper that the opinions and recommendations of a convention such as the one I have mentioned should be taken into serious consideration. I do not think this bill is a perfect one. I think improvements can be made in it, and I was very pleased indeed to note that the minister was prepared to take suggestions into consideration, and in proper cases accept amendments to the bill. I am not going to take up any more time, but I do again urge that the recommendations of the returned men themselves at the Dominion convention of the Canadian Legion be given serious consideration.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): May I ask the hon. gentleman whether the W. A. Irwin mentioned as chairman of the special committee is W. A. Irwin of Edmonton?

Mr. McQUARRIE: It does not say, but I have a letter here which I shall be glad to show the minister from the secretary of the special committee, who sends me a copy of this resolution purporting to be signed by "W. A. Irwin, chairman." I subsequently re-

ceived a telegram from the same gentleman dated Langley, B.C., February 25, 1927, reading as follows:

Fraser Valley Milk Producers' Association over two thousand members in annual meeting unanimously endorse Canadian Legion convention resolutions regarding soldier settlers. Still oppose bill six one.

(Sgd) PAYNE.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): The hon. gentleman is familiar with the resolutions. Would he mind enumerating the salient points? I did not follow them all, but I noted one concerning the application of all interest payments against principal, and another suggestion of a 25 per cent reduction on top of that on the valuation of the land.

Mr. McQUARRIE: That is right. There are other recommendations here, but I do not want to go over them all again.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I do not ask that, but perhaps my hon. friend would summarize in his own way the salient points.

Mr. FORKE: I think the Canadian Legion might at least have sent me a copy of this resolution. This is the first intimation I have had that such a meeting was held and that such resolutions were passed. Surely the hon. member does not expect me to be able to pass judgment on them without a little consideration.

Mr. STEVENS: The minister will probably know that a representative of his department was there and took part in the discussion. Surely such an officer should have reported to the department.

Mr. FORKE: He did not.

Mr. McPHERSON: I notice that the minister agreed with my interpretation that revaluation would be given where the agreement had not been cancelled. Under the original clause, and under the last clause, where the land had not been disposed of, but the soldier had left and the agreement had been cancelled, the soldier could apply for reinstatement and re-purchase. The hon. gentleman who has just sat down mentioned, in drawing attention to the resolutions, an item that is of considerable importance, and that is that no action be taken by the government to evict those in possession of the land where agreements have been terminated.

The point I wish to make is this, and it does not change, I think, the intention of the House or of the minister: If this act receives the same strict interpretation by the officials in charge that they are used to giving in connection with other Dominion acts—the