

Supply—Veterans Affairs

also holds good with regard to full-time farming and commercial fishing. The demand for properties there is on the up and up. It is not declining as are university training and vocational training. Of course that applies also to the necessity for supervision and transportation, travelling, and motor cars.

Mr. Cardiff: I have a few questions in regard to small holdings. I understood there was some change since the act came into force as to the amount of land that a man had to have to come under the regulation. Is it still three acres, or can he come under the act with a lesser amount?

Mr. Gregg: I wonder whether my hon. friend was in when the hon. member for Kamloops and I discussed this at length a little while ago. It is now exactly as it has been since 1946, namely, two or three acres, unless the man is a pensioner, depending upon the value of the land in the vicinity; but we are exploring plans, which my hon. friend will see in *Hansard*, which we discussed about a half hour ago.

Item agreed to.

548. To provide for the upkeep of property, Veterans Land Act, including engineering and other investigational planning expenses that do not add tangible value to real property; taxes, insurance and maintenance of public utilities, \$132,500.

Mr. Blackmore: Before the item carries I want to say to the minister that I did not expect he would make as much progress last evening with his estimates as he did. I wanted to have something more to say about the McCann commission on one of these items. It became necessary for me to be out of the house. Since these items have passed I shall have to defer to a later time my remarks concerning the McCann commission.

Item agreed to.

551. To provide for the payment of grants to Indian veterans settled on Indian reserve lands under section 35A of the Veterans Land Act, 1942 (as amended by order in council P.C. 2122, dated 13th April, 1945), \$500,000.

Mr. Harkness: Can the minister tell us what success has been secured up to date in the settlement of Indians on their own reserves under the Veterans Land Act? I see that there was a vote of \$600,000 for this purpose last year. Was that expended, or to what extent was it expended? How much was put out in the form of grants last year for this purpose?

Mr. Gregg: Last year \$479,838 was spent.

Mr. Harkness: Can the minister tell us how many Indians have been settled up to date under the Veterans Land Act under this provision?

Mr. Gregg: The number to date is just a bit over a thousand, about 1,012.

Mr. Harkness: Up to date have any of these people failed on their holdings, whether they be small holdings or more or less full-scale farming, or have they been coming along fairly successfully?

Mr. Gregg: That comes under the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration.

Mr. Harris (Grey-Bruce): I shall be glad to answer that question on my estimates.

Item agreed to.

553. To authorize and provide for necessary remedial work, to be approved by the governor in council, on properties sold under the Veterans Land Act, under individual firm price contracts, to correct defects for which neither the veteran nor the contractor can be held financially responsible, \$30,000.

Mr. White (Hastings-Peterborough): I should like to ask the minister a question about items 553 and 554, which more or less come together. Does item 554 refer to the development at Windsor? If so, will the minister tell the committee how much has been paid to date in repairing these properties and what legal action, if any, his department took to recover any part of the money from the contractor?

Mr. Gregg: No, Mr. Chairman, neither of these estimates has moneys earmarked for the subdivision at Windsor. I believe that that is history. We have attempted and we did carry out in the last two years a good deal of remedial work in that subdivision. I have not before me just now the amount of money involved, but I do know that the results of the work were reasonably successful and that the subdivision is now going forward quite satisfactorily. These items before us—for instance, item 553—are for a few remaining places about which we have to do something. They are to repair the roofs on 14 Faircraft houses, \$2,500; to demolish and replace the foundation walls, footings and basement floors in 6 houses in Vernon, British Columbia, \$12,000; to provide drainage ditch at Baie d'Urfe, province of Quebec, \$2,000; to provide for contingencies. On the basis of past and the current year's experience, the director will be unable to escape accepting certain liabilities to remedy defects where the contractor cannot be held legally responsible or where he will not be financially capable of making repairs, \$13,500.

Mr. White (Hastings-Peterborough): With regard to the item of \$104,000, and dealing