

that "seven years of this administration would eat up the whole of the present debt". Furthermore, the brief argues that failure to grant clear titles will force a number of the present settlers to apply for War Veterans' Allowance which, at \$720 a year, will exceed in two years the present average indebtedness. The brief states that the request has the support of the thousands who signed the petition of 1944 as well as the other organizations mentioned, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, and the executives of the Alberta and British Columbia Commands of the Canadian Legion.

The third brief of November, 1945, argues that the soldier settlers who were able to pay their indebtedness during the past six years had better luck than those who failed to do so—better crops, no lack of moisture, freedom from frost, hail and the grasshopper pest, and freedom from family sickness. The brief urges justice, not charity, for the large number of original settlers still remaining on their farms.

The solution offered by the Canadian Legion is contained in the following resolution:—

Therefore be it resolved that, in order to be fair to our aging veterans and to bring the old and the new settlement acts more into line, the Dominion government be asked to readjust the debts of the 6,153 original soldier settlers who have not paid for their lands, such readjustment to take into consideration the difference in interest rates charged under the said acts; and that following such readjustment the government be further asked to cancel the debts of those original soldier settlers whose debt has been, or may hereafter be, reduced to 25 per cent of the original purchase price or the reduced purchase price.

The Legion goes on to state:—

The position of the widows of soldier settlers has long been a problem with the Canadian Legion. There is a strong feeling that a family left destitute should be permitted to remain on the farm. The present practice is to dispose of the farm and pay the widow any equity that may be due to the estate. Experience indicates that in a very large number of instances the amount available to the family is practically nil.

The memorandum by the Chief Executive Assistant to the Director, Soldier Settlement of Canada, addressed to the Chairman of the Interdepartmental Committee, states:—

It is understood your Committee, a fact-finding body, wants to know the present true position of soldier settlers in comparison with their position in 1942, when Soldier Settlement was reviewed from inception by a Special Parliamentary Committee on Land Settlement of veterans. Minutes of proceedings and evidence of the 1942 Committee (April-July 1942) are of public record. (Nos. 1 and 2-7 to 11.)

This memorandum of factual material (*with supporting schedules and summaries*), should serve as a useful basis to enable the Committee to assess the progress made by soldier settlers since March 1942, and the prospect of farm home ownership for those still indebted under existing terms of the Soldier Settlement Act.

This statement is submitted in two parts:—

Part one covers briefly (a) the position of soldier settlers as at March 31st, 1942; (b) the position of soldier settlers as at December 31st, 1945. Part two covers Debt Adjustment operations under P.C. 10472 of November 19, 1942—an order passed pursuant to report and recommendations of the 1942 Parliamentary Committee.