

Mr. ARTHURS: That will not necessarily be confined to British Columbia?

Mr. MEIGHEN: No; I presume some fruit grows even in the county of my hon. friend, but the request for it came from British Columbia. It applies everywhere.

Section as amended agreed to.

Reconsideration of section 63—regulations that board may make:

Mr. MEIGHEN: I beg to move in amendment to this clause to:

(a) strike out the letter ("L") and substitute for it the letter "n" at the beginning of the fourth line on page 29 of the printed Bill.

This applies to the last of the regulatory powers at the end of the section. Then I desire to move that power be given to make regulations prescribing:

(L) authority and procedure for the inclusion within the expression "settler" of persons who, being otherwise qualified to be settlers, are not yet discharged from military or other service.

The only way that can be done at this stage would be to give the board power to make regulations enabling them to consider, on certain conditions, as settlers men who are not yet discharged because of their being disabled, the intention being that if a disabled man is not discharged for that reason but is certified by sufficient medical authority to be, in all probability, an efficient man later on physically and, if he passes the qualification board, he may reserve a soldier entry without having to wait for his discharge. It will be along these lines, I fully expect, the regulation will be made. This meets the point that was raised in reference to clause 2 of the Bill. The second power proposed to be given to the board is to make regulations prescribing:

(m) with respect to blind or other partially but seriously incapacitated settlers special provisions for assistance in settlement of small holdings or otherwise inclusive of the remission of interest in whole or in part.

It is not without some earnest consideration that I move that amendment. I realize that the first purpose and function of soldiers' settlement is not in any way to compensate the soldier. That is the function of the pension board. At the same time the best occupation for certain classes of seriously incapacitated men is to engage in small holding farming even if they should not get any money from it. Apparently it is pretty well conceded that some occupation for blind people is essential; otherwise life for them is a greater and greater bur-

den. There are among them those who would like to go into poultry farming or something like that. There is no other body constituted under the Government to take care of that work so well as the soldier settlement body. Consequently, it appears that it would be the duty of the board to deal with cases of that kind. The only way in which we can possibly deal with them will be to give power, perhaps adaptable to each individual case. No regulation can be made so hard and fast that it will apply everywhere. It may be that in one case remission of interest may be made for a certain time or it may be that in another case remission should be made altogether. It may be that in another case the interest may be reduced or a very small loan made for some small farm. The only way I feel that we can cover it now is by giving the board power to make regulations which will enable them to deal with the very few persons—because they will be comparatively few—who come within this class so that they may be put in a position to occupy themselves to the best advantage.

Section as amended agreed to.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I desire to state before the committee reports, a few facts relating particularly to the subject brought up by the hon. member for Fraser Valley (Mr. Stacey). I wish to give the committee the progress we have made in the way of securing land from the Indian reserves. These lands are surrendered and taken over by the board at a valuation fixed by a representative of the Department of Indian Affairs and a representative of the board. Then they are sold at a valuation that will total the amount that the lands cost the board. It is in connection with these lands particularly that the clause that gave rise to some discussion in the committee has to do; that is the clause which provides the basis upon which lands may be proportionately divided if taken in bulk. We do not buy in bulk as a practice; we buy the individual parcel that the soldier has already selected but we buy Indian lands in bulk. Then we have to divide them and fix the valuation for each parcel sold in order that the total will amount up to the total cost to the board of the land. The lands so far acquired since we began this work are as follows:

1. Piapots Reserve 2½ sections surrendered. \$20 per acre. Valued by Messrs. Graham and Govan.

2. Piapots Reserve 24 sections, unsundered. Valued at \$12 per acre. Valued