

that the same is true of Saskatchewan and Manitoba—there are no desirable Dominion lands suited for this purpose and close to a railway. We want to make this proposition beneficial to the soldier. We want to attract to the land the soldier who either has had experience as a farmer or is earnest in his desire to become a farmer. We want to put on the land men who intend to till the soil and remain upon the soil, and in order to do that, we must make the proposition as attractive as possible. I would ask the minister, if he has the information available, what land he has in view for this particular purpose, and what distance it is from a railway. I think the information is very important at this stage.

Mr. ROCHE: I told the right hon. leader of the Opposition (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) that when we got into committee I would provide a map showing where the land is located, and this will show also the distance from a railway. Of course, the proposition the hon. gentleman (Mr. Buchanan) makes would involve purchasing Indian lands. I do not suppose he proposes that we should do that. If we did it in the western provinces, the other provinces would have as good a claim that it should be done in their case.

Mr. G. E. McCRAVEY (Saskatoon): We have had experience in dealing with soldiers and putting them upon Dominion land. We have issued scrip to them and have had in view the rewarding of the soldiers rather than the encouragement of agriculture and fitting the returned soldier to be an efficient farmer. The very fact that the minister is able to tell us that of the locations under the provisions for South African scrip, numbering 7,240, only 657 were located by soldiers themselves on the land, and of these some have not completed their term of residence, shows to what a small degree the plan effected the purpose for which it was made. After the South African war we believed that we had unlimited land, and that consequently we could give to each of our returned soldiers scrip for as much as 320 acres. It has already been pointed out on this side of the House that there is not now any great quantity of land available for such a purpose as this. We cannot have our cake and eat it, too; we cannot have given thousands of acres under South African scrip and still have great quantities of good land available for those returning from this war. I am glad to have the minister state that in his conception of this legislation it

[Mr. Buchanan.]

is not looked upon as a reward to the soldier but as a plan for making soldiers into efficient agriculturists. In addition to giving assistance to those who may go upon the land under the provisions of this legislation, the minister will also find, I think, that it will be necessary to give financial assistance to those homesteaders who, in 1914, left the land to join the overseas forces and have since returned to Canada. Perhaps the minister's attention has been drawn to the case of Private Baldwin, of Saskatoon, who, at the outbreak of the war, left his homestead, N.E. 4, section 17, township 34, range 14 west of the 3rd meridian. He comes back, and has no means of carrying on agriculture—the year 1914 was a year of no crop in that locality. He will need assistance on the land he has homesteaded just as much as will the men whom the minister puts on the land under the provisions of this measure. It is said that the experience is that war is so unsettling that, instead of returned soldiers wanting to go on the land, they are more likely to desire to congregate in the cities. And while it is desirable to make the most generous provisions for the settlement of returned soldiers on the land, it is my own view that not much advantage will be taken of this plan. Perhaps the minister has already in his mind the names of the commissioners whom he will recommend to administer this law. I only want to say to him that in the administration of laws of this kind commissioners are required with the most outstanding reputation for probity and judgment. The ordinary man will not do, for one of the most important requirements for the administration of this Act is public confidence. I urge this upon the minister, because so often in matters of this sort, the importunate party man who may know something about land will endeavour to secure the appointment; and the minister is going to make trouble for himself and for any Government that may succeed him, unless he has the strongest kind of commissioners to administer the law.

Mr. W. M. GERMAN (Welland): I give this Government every credit for their desire to work out the resolutions now before the House. But the minister has admitted that nothing in the way of a land grant will be made to the soldier under the provisions of the Act to be introduced in pursuance of this resolution other than what any one else can get. The soldier must do his settlement duty. Any individual, soldier or civilian, can go into the Northwest