

Committee is convinced—be evolved which will meet the situation; and the Committee feels that it will be very unfortunate if this session of Parliament is allowed to pass without earnest consideration being given to the problem herein presented.

While refraining from making any specific recommendation on the request for remission of interest, feeling that the general information at the disposal of the Committee is not sufficiently extensive to warrant it in doing so, the Committee would respectfully submit that the conditions among settlers in classes three and four are such as to warrant a very close inquiry, and some immediate remedial action to save to the country the services of these men and to preserve the original investment. Without committing itself, therefore, to any specific recommendation, the Committee offers the following suggestions for consideration:—

(1) That, as the Committee is informed that to date the country has received only 3·2 per cent interest on the investment, the interest rate might be stabilized about that figure for the balance of the term of agreement, or extension thereof. The Committee understands that a similar rate is now being charged by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company on its land contracts.

(2) That, the Committee is informed that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company has, as a business proposition, found it desirable to reamortize its contracts over a period of thirty-four years; and it might properly be considered whether this could not be done in soldier settlement contracts.

(3) The adoption of the foregoing suggestions would reduce the annual payments by about one half which would be an incentive to the really willing man to go on. The inefficient individual would be revealed and should be removed.

(4) *Special Cases.*—The Committee believes that specific consideration should be given to men who are truly pioneers. Settlers who have gone into heavily timbered areas where land for cultivation can only be made available after years of labour should be given some consideration. The man settled on such land, which can only be made productive after years of labour, can hardly pay interest from the outset; thus, by the time his farm becomes productive, the load of interest is so great that there is little likelihood that he will ever overcome the burden. It is respectfully submitted that, when year by year a man has made steady progress in clearing the land and opening new areas for settlement his efforts might be recognized by some remission of interest.

(5) Consideration should be given to the position of men who have gone on land, and, after years of hard work, have broken down either as a result of war disability or from disability primarily due to war service and some provision made whereby they can be relieved from some definite portion of the liability to the Board.

CROP SHARE AGREEMENTS.

Evidence was brought before the Committee showing that, in certain instances, the Board had demanded from settlers' crop share agreements calling for delivery of as high as one half of the total crop. It was explained by the Board that, in some instances, such agreements were necessary—particularly where the crop formed only a minor portion of the settler's entire operation. The Committee, while realizing that necessity may exist for the obtaining of such in certain instances of crop share agreements, nevertheless, would respectfully

Recommend that the Board should not depart from the ordinary business practice of the country, and that in no case should the payments exceed one-third of the crop; and, further, that, where such agreements are obtained, the enforcement thereof should always have due regard to the living requirements of the settler and his family, and to his requirements for the following season's operations.