

APPENDIX No. 2

The case submitted by Mr. Mowat and Mr. Hocken was answered by the Hon. J. A. Calder, Minister of Immigration and Colonization, who is now also Minister of Health, and, therefore, responsible for the administration of the present housing project of the Federal Government. Mr. Calder referred to the importance of relying upon those who started industries being encouraged to establish them in the smaller towns. He said that the House would be bound to consider the extent to which the matter was a federal duty, and although he did not question the practicability or ease with which the Government could establish model cities, he stated that it would cost money. He implied, therefore, that there was a question of finance which involved the consideration of other alternative ways of assisting the returned soldier. Speaking for the Opposition, Mr. D. D. Mackenzie seems inclined to the view that the matter came within the jurisdiction of the provinces rather than of the Federal Government. Mr. Mowat's reply was to the effect that the scheme was designed for those who had been sent to war and that the Federal Government was, therefore, responsible for securing proper settlement and satisfactory housing conditions for the ex-service men.

The Attitude of the Federal Government.

The policy of the Federal Government towards housing has been that they regarded it as a matter for provincial rather than federal administration and responsibility. The grant of \$25,000,000 at 5 per cent to facilitate the erection of houses for workingmen (particularly returned soldiers) was made by the Government, to supplement the aid given under the Land Settlement scheme, but the conditions under which the grant was made were prefaced by the statement that the promotion of housing schemes was a matter for provincial and municipal rather than federal jurisdiction. This attitude of the Federal Government has to be borne in mind in connection with any proposals to increase the liabilities of the Government for housing schemes.

The Premier (the Right Hon. Arthur Meighen) has also indicated that he does not favour communistic features in any proposal for land settlement. The Premier—then Minister of the Interior—stated in a letter to Lieutenant A. F. Walker, M.M., relating to the co-operative land settlement plan in British Columbia, that he concurred in the disapproval by the Soldier Settlement Board of certain communistic features of the scheme and that he preferred the system then in operation, which “insists on individual qualification and individual effort and responsibility.” Subsequently a co-operative scheme was agreed to for the carrying out of a scheme at Courtenay, B.C., under regulations adopted by the Provincial Land Settlement Board.

In dealing with the administration of the federal loan I have had to consider and discuss, with various parties connected with repatriation, the question of forming special colonies for returned soldiers. One scheme was suggested for an area at Kamloops. I visited the site, which appeared to be admirably adapted for a settlement, particularly for men who had been cured of tuberculosis but required to exercise care in selecting employment and a suitable climate so as to prevent recurrence of their malady. I was unable to make any recommendations in respect of this or any other site until the initiative was taken by the Department of the Government responsible for soldier settlement. In this case, the Department of Indian Affairs was interested because part of the land was an Indian reserve which it was proposed to acquire. The consideration of the scheme was referred to the Soldier Settlement Board with whom rests the responsibility for any steps that may be taken.

One communication was received from a man in the Manitoba Sanatorium for consumptives. He explained that he had been gassed and, in consequence, suffered from tuberculosis. He expected to leave in a couple of months with the disease, in a measure, arrested. He expressed the opinion that to prevent the disease from breaking out again he would have to sleep in the open air, winter and summer, and live in a