

the taxes in order to keep it from being sold for taxes by the municipality. Yesterday the hon. member for Lake Centre (Mr. Diefenbaker) offered some criticism of the soldier settlement administration in the matter of payment of allowances to dependents of enlisted soldier settlers. In this connection I have in mind a man who enlisted and who left a wife and two children on his farm. He had not been a successful farmer, and it was not the fault of the land. I think my hon. friends, if they are honest, will admit that there are some farmers who do not succeed largely because they lack some quality which is necessary to success.

Mr. JAKES: The best farmers do not always succeed.

Mr. CRERAR: This man assigned \$20 of his pay to his family; his wife receives \$35 allowance and \$12 for each child, making a total of \$79 a month. Criticism was made, and probably would be made by my hon. friend, because under these circumstances we are asking that the taxes be paid so that the government will not have to put up additional money for that purpose. Is that a hardship on the family? I suppose my hon. friend will say that it is.

I should like to make one more observation before I sit down. The recent increases in taxation—and I do not say that we have reached the limit—have been such that next year hundreds of thousands of people who have paid no taxes to the federal government will be paying taxes direct to the federal government. It is about time that the people of this country became tax conscious. There is no group in this house who have more suggestions for the spending of public money than my hon. friends who sit diagonally opposite. On almost every occasion we hear suggestions that we should put up for the relief of the soldier settler, should bonus this and should do something more about that. Where will we get the money to do all the things? It must come out of the pockets of the taxpayers. The government does not get it off rose-bushes, notwithstanding all the theories of my hon. friends from Alberta. The money must come from the pockets of the taxpayers or by means of loans. If the hon. member for Mackenzie and the hon. member for Bow River want to stand well with the electors in the next election they must soon give some attention to relieving the burdens of the taxpayer. In the years to come, the taxpayer will have something to say about it, and he is going to say it pretty loudly, if I do not miss my guess.

(Mr. Crerar.)

Mr. COLDWELL: I had not intended to say anything on this particular item, but I see that the figures show that the burden placed upon these men was such that they could not carry it. The percentage of soldier settlers who have completed their contracts is very small, and only a very small percentage of those settled under the British family scheme remain on the land. I think our people are tax conscious now, but we are not obtaining all the taxes that could be obtained in the right places. Yesterday I was speaking to a minister from one of our sister dominions, New Zealand. Wages are lower in that country than they are here, but they have social services which make the real wages higher. I was interested in finding out the basis upon which farmer debts in that dominion had been reduced, and I was told that they took the price levels over a period of ten years and then decided what the land could bear, after the farmer was left £3 a week—that is £156 a year which at the present rate of exchange amounts to \$700—before he was expected to pay anything on the indebtedness on his land. That was the basis of the adjustments which were put into effect several years ago in New Zealand.

The minister said that \$79 a month is a considerable income for a woman with two children and whose husband is overseas. The minister must realize that many of these people who have been living under these conditions have nothing in their homes. I know that the hon. member for Mackenzie, the hon. member for Bow River and I have gone into settlers' homes where there was not sufficient clothing in the house, or sufficient equipment in the kitchen to get a decent meal. A soldier settler in uniform from near Prince Albert came to my office and told me that he had enlisted in order that his wife and family might be able to eat and be decently clothed for the duration of the war. That is not the spirit in which a man should enter the army.

Mr. CRERAR: Does my hon. friend blame that condition on the soldier settlement administration?

Mr. COLDWELL: No; I am not placing this on the doorstep of the minister. What I am urging is that every consideration should be given at this time to the soldier settlers, and particularly to those who have gone back to the army. These men have not the provincial debt protection which other people have, and I do not think our government departments should exert the pressure which, it seems, is being exerted upon some of these people.

The minister will say, of course, that some of these men have not farmed properly, that