

that there was any neglect of settlers but that on the other hand the Board's officers were doing their best by visiting settlers who required it and approving of assistance within the limits of the legislation when the circumstances justified, and that many of the soldier settlers were in a better position because of the Board's supervision and assistance than they could have had that assistance not been obtainable. There is nothing to show that complaints having merit are not revised by the Board and dealt with on their merits.

At various dates subsequent to the 21st of May, further communications were received from the Dominion Secretary of the G.W.V.A., as well as a lengthy letter from Mr. C. M. Browning, of Edmonton, relative to the general situation in connection with the Soldier Settlement Act. These letters were as well referred to the Sub-Committee before mentioned, whose report thereon will be found in the printed proceedings of your Committee.

The main operations under the Act appear to have been beneficial to the extent of the settlement on land of a very considerable number of men to the full extent of the money appropriations set apart for the purpose by Parliament; these operations are still going on, and no further important changes appear to the Committee advisable at the present time in the general policy or scope of the Act as already amended at the present session of Parliament.

It would appear that the basic safeguards provided to the huge outlays under the Act and the necessity that every dollar of this expenditure must be supervised by the Board, must result in many unqualified men failing to qualify for settlement and many applications for unsuitable land being refused, and that a certain amount of complaint must normally arise.

After reviewing the letters of complaints submitted by the Secretary-Treasurer of the G.W.V.A. and taking into account the magnitude of the Board's operations, the great pressure of work during last year's business, the Committee cannot but feel that the complaints which the Veterans' organizations have been receiving from individuals and which are illustrated by the typical cases placed before the Committee are cases of individual complaint which must necessarily arise from the settlement of from fifteen to twenty thousand men and a total expenditure of over forty million dollars in loans, where certain individuals cannot necessarily receive all they demand and where delays must unavoidably occur in certain cases because of the character and volume of business transacted. In the actions of the Board as viewed in the light of the individual complaints mentioned, the Committee feel that there is nothing to show executive inefficiency.

XIX.—SPECIAL PLANS FOR LAND SETTLEMENT.

Mr. H. M. Mowat, M.P., and Mr. Noulan Cauchon addressed your Committee upon the respective plans which were placed by them before the Committee of last year.

Your Committee is of the opinion it would be unwise under existing conditions to enter further into these plans until, as stated earlier in this Report, further evidence is obtained with regard to somewhat similar schemes which have been initiated in Great Britain and elsewhere, for the benefit of returned men.

XX.—CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION.

There was submitted to your Committee by the Great War Veterans' Association a series of resolutions relating to the Civil Service Commission. Certain of these indicated that returned men had some doubt as to whether their claims were receiving proper attention. The Secretary of the Commission appeared before the Committee and his examination made it clear that not only were the provisions of the law in favour of returned men being carried out to the letter but that the Commission worked