

Soldier Settlers

Meeker	Starr
Nickle	Stewart (Winnipeg North)
Nowlan	Tustin
Pearkes	White (Hastings-
Quelch	Peterborough)
Ross (Souris)	Wright—40.
Shaw	

Mr. Cruickshank: I was paired with the hon. member for Cape Breton South (Mr. Gillis).

Mr. Cardiff: I did not vote; had I voted, I would have voted against the motion.

Mr. White (Middlesex East): I was paired with the hon. member for Middlesex West (Mr. McCubbin). Had I voted, I would have voted against the motion.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

SOLDIER SETTLERS**PROPOSAL TO GIVE CLEAR TITLES TO VETERANS WITH UNPAID BALANCES**

Mr. Robert Fair (Battle River) moved:

That, in the opinion of this house, the government should take into consideration the advisability of giving clear titles to all soldier settlers of great war I who hold land under contract with the soldier settlement board.

He said: Mr. Speaker, as this resolution now almost qualifies for the other place, I hope it will not be necessary for me to move it another year. Its subject matter has been before the house since 1937; and if it takes another sixteen or seventeen years to bring it into operation, I would hope to keep it at all times before the house. I say this because in my view it is something worthy of consideration and should be attended to, even before this government goes out of office.

The resolution in its present form is somewhat trimmed down as compared to what it was when first placed before the house. The preamble, it will be noted, has been removed. Perhaps this is a good thing, because it has been before the house so often that it would no longer seem necessary to have the preamble.

I believe hon. members know very well what I have in mind in placing this resolution before the house. They know that back in 1919 a piece of legislation was passed by the government of that day making provision for loans to veterans of the first great war who had returned to Canada, but who were congregating in the town and cities. In order to get them out on the farms, and

so they would not cause trouble where they were congregating, the legislation was passed.

That legislation has been described by one minister, in whose charge it was, as having been hastily improvised. That is about the best that could be said about it. I am pleased to say, however, that its successor, the Veterans Land Act, has been greatly improved. Had the old vets been given the opportunities given those who came back from world war II, it would not have been necessary for me or for anyone else to keep a resolution of this kind before the house for so many years.

I do not think anyone will question the justice of the claim I have propounded. We made solemn promises to the veterans of world war I, and we did the same with those of world war II. Why in the world we should renege on those promises is beyond my understanding entirely. I can see no reason for it, because we have been told time and again that our productive capacity is increasing from year to year. Our national product is now valued at about \$22 or \$23 billion, and there is no reason why an injustice that has existed since 1919 should not be cleared up at this session, at the very latest.

I should like to place on record an article I have read on many occasions before. This was an address by Sir Robert Borden, at a time when he was prime minister of Canada, to members of the Canadian expeditionary force in 1917. This is what he said:

You are men actually facing the enemy day and night. You are suffering greatly from fatigue, overstrain, and lack of rest. The marvel of it is that men could undergo such a strain without breaking; but you have never yet broken, and history will appreciate that in days to come.

You men are about to enter one of the most serious engagements that ever faced the Canadian corps. I cannot, at this moment, give any information as to where this attack will be staged; whether it be successful or not, it is to be borne in mind that it will not be an easy success. We feel confident that you will succeed where others failed; for you have never yet failed in anything you have set your hand to, as a Canadian corps.

You can go into this action feeling assured of this, and as the head of the government, I give you this assurance: that you need have no fear that the government and the country will fail to show just appreciation of your service to the country and empire in what you are about to do and what you have already done.

The government and the country will consider it their first duty to see that a proper appreciation of your effort and of your courage is brought to the notice of the people at home, and it will always be our endeavour to so guide the attitude of public opinion, that the country will support the government to prove to the returned man its just and due appreciation of the inestimable value of the services rendered to the country and empire; and that no man, whether he goes back or whether he remains in Flanders, will have just cause to reproach the government for having broken with the men who won and the men who died.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker.]