

HOUSE DEBATES NEW WAYS TO HELP SOLDIERS

Chairman of Committee Emphasizes Debt Canada Owes To Our War Veterans.

J. T. SHAW IS CRITICAL

Calgary Progressive Urges Extending Field of Royal Commission.

OTTAWA, June 21.—Problems of the returned soldier held the house today. They arose on a motion for concurrence in the report of the special committee on pensions and re-establishment. Herbert Marler, of St. Lawrence-St. George (Montreal), chairman of the committee, related at great length its activities and findings.

He emphasized the great debt of Canada to the returned men, but observed, too, that they were also citizens of Canada and on them devolved the duties of citizenship. And following Mr. Marler, Alfred Speakman of Red Deer, chairman of the subcommittee on land settlement, reviewed what was proposed in the way of assistance to soldier settlers on the land. The idea of the scheme

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Flays Gland Sale As Moral Wrong Forbidden by Sixth Commandment

MILWAUKEE, June 21.—A bitter attack on what he termed the "traffic in glands," was made today by the Rev. Father Herbert C. Noonan, president of the Marquette University. He denounced the practice as a violation of the moral law, not alone by the person who submits to the operation, but by the surgeon, who, for a fee, transplants the glands. His statement is expected to arouse dissension in medical ranks as the result of the operation upon Harold F. McCormick of Chicago.

"Buying and selling human glands was sound, he asserted. The difficulty lay in changed economic conditions.

Subsequently came criticism. J. T. Shaw (Progressive, West Calgary) himself a war veteran, had an amendment to extend the scope of the royal commission proposed to investigate Great War Veterans' Association officials' charges against the pension board. Under Mr. Shaw's amendment the commission would have power to make a complete survey of existing re-establishment needs, to investigate the conditions of exchange and canteen funds.

Mr. Shaw regretted that the special committee had made no definite proposals in regard to unemployment. He criticized limitations placed on returned soldiers' insurance.

From other members also came pleas that the scope of the proposed royal commission be extended. Ex-Mayor T. L. Church of Toronto thought a proper court should be established to hold a thorough investigation. He charged that insufficient help was being given the blind soldiers, that the government had appointed numerous secretaries, but that few of the appointees were returned men.

Carroll Urges Investigation. W. F. Carroll of Cape Breton South would have the royal commission investigate every grievance of the returned men.

H. Marler (Liberal, St. Lawrence-St. George) chairman of the special committee on pensions, insurance and re-establishment of returned soldiers, moved concurrence in the final report of this committee. The motion was seconded by Alfred Speakman (Progressive, Red Deer).

Mr. Marler reviewed Canada's war effort and the steps already taken in the direction of re-establishment. He quoted figures to show what had been done for the returned men and the dependents of those who did not return since the close of the war. Total expenditures in this connection amounted to \$487,152,558.

The soldiers of Canada had earned the gratitude of this country to an extent which we could not repay, but they must remember that they were citizens of Canada and on that devolved the duty of citizenship. Those who did not understand that duty should realize that they must help themselves and not depend on state paternalism any more than is available.

Up to December 31, 1921, admissions to hospital through the D. S. C. R. numbered 127,861; clinical treatments, 945,219; dental treatments, 28,779; number commenced training, 51,838; orthopaedic and surgical appliances supplied, 127,349; positions found, 175,157; dependents returned from overseas, 49,000.

No Solution Available. With regard to unemployment, Mr. Marler said that a number of proposals were submitted to the committee asking that a national economic conference should be held. No concrete proposals were advanced and although the committee was justly seized with the present unemployment situation, no solution seemed available.

With regard to state unemployment insurance it was not held that action of this kind could be recommended until there was a return to normal conditions. Pensions were based on the earning power of a non-skilled laborer, 100 per cent efficient.

In Canada they were greater than in other countries. The estimate for the year 1922 was \$38,541,000.

Referring to the charges of the G. W. V. A. officials against the pension board, Mr. Marler said that the committee had recommended appointment of a royal commission to investigate these charges. In view of the fact he did not feel that he should now discuss them at any great length.

On the question of land settlement, Mr. Marler explained that there were 21,394 soldier settlers in all. Over \$85,000,000 had been loaned and there was still \$80,000,000 outstanding. The results of the settlers' operations could not be considered disappointing. Over 600,000 acres of new land had been brought under cultivation, and the total land operated was over 3,000,000 acres. The capital and interest in arrears was not considered greatly out of proportion with the amount involved.

Explains Provisions. Mr. Marler explained the provisions under which all loans to soldier settlers for land, stock and equipment were to be consolidated as of the date April 1, 1922, to be repaid, allowing for certain exemptions, in 25 annual payments.

Mr. McElghen asked if 25 years was not a long period for both stock and implements as regards security. Mr. Marler replied that the committee had thought that the appreciation on the land would more than make up for the depreciation in the stock and equipment. He said the exemption from interest, longer to the earlier than to the later settlers, was explained by the fact that the earlier settlers had had to buy land and implements at higher prices. He estimated the total cost involved in exemption of interest at \$11,700,000, but said there would be a saving in cost of administration estimated at \$250,000 per annum.

Moves Adoption. He then moved the adoption of the report. Mr. Speakman, chairman of the special sub-committee on land settlement, said problems of the soldiers on the land were approached from two viewpoints: first to remedy any injustices through faults in the act; secondly, to investigate from the point of view of a business proposition. The essence of the scheme was not re-establishment, but method of colonization, which applied only to those men who had served overseas. The idea was sound, and the law was just, according to the conditions prevailing at the time it was enacted.

The main trouble encountered was in the complete change in the economic condition of the agricultural industry. It was the situation arising out of this change which the committee sought to alleviate. Men who went on the land had every expectation of success, but unfortunately, owing to the conditions of the time, were compelled to pay high prices for everything needed on the farms. These men had no reserves of cash, and because of the payments on their properties the depression in agriculture felt most heavily upon them.

in an operation of transplanting is a grave violation of the moral law," he said. "The moral precept, 'Thou shalt not kill,' forbids not alone murder or suicide, but likewise mutilation of the human body."

An organ or member may be amputated only when the good of the entire body demands such an operation. An operation involving the removal of a gland from one person and transplanting it in another is not lawful and constitutes a grave mutilation, and one which if not performed to save life, constitutes a moral wrong.

"Buying and selling human glands

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Relieve Depression. The sub-committee had not regarded their recommendations so much from the legal viewpoint as from the viewpoint of practical farmers. They knew what conditions the settlers could succeed under. Commencing on Oct. 1, the loans would be spread over a period of 25 years. This would relieve the settlers from the effects of the depression of the last two years.

Hon. R. J. Manion was pleased with the proposal to appoint a pension appeal board. He also appreciated any suggestion for the purpose of assisting soldier settlers.

He also advocated extending the powers of the royal commission which will investigate the charges of the Great War Veterans' Association so as to deal with complaints of all soldiers.

J. T. Shaw (Progressive, Calgary West) deprecated the idea that the soldiers were asking for paternalism. He regretted that the committee had made no definite proposals on unemployment. He estimated that 60 to 75 per cent of the unemployed were returned soldiers.

Moves Amendment. Mr. Shaw then moved, in amendment, that the proposed royal commission should have power to report on the following additional matters: 1. To consider and make suggestions in respect of the procedure by which disabled ex-members of the C. E. F. are enabled to make application for pension and medical treatment or submit appeal in respect of decisions thereon.

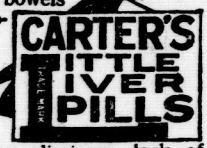
2. To recommend means for insuring that suitable provision is made for all these ex-members of the forces and dependents who are under serious handicap by reason of war service in conformity with the recommendations now made, and for whom definite legislative provision has not yet been made.

For the above purposes, the commission shall: 1. Survey existing re-establishment needs among Canadian ex-service men and dependents. 2. Investigate available data in respect of phrases of the parliamentary inquiry, as yet incomplete. 3. Obtain information as regards suitable provision for these classes of ex-service men, described in section 7, chapter 11, of the committee's report.

4. Investigate the question of exchange and canteen funds. In connection with the last clause of the amendment, Mr. Shaw said that a misapprehension appeared to exist in regard to the canteen funds. They belonged to the ex-service men, and not to the parliament of Canada. The proposals which the committee had made that these funds should be used for workshops and for the education of children of returned soldiers were outside the scope of legislation.

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