

The following measures, besides The War Service Grants Act, require that the veteran to become eligible shall have had an honourable discharge:

The Veterans' Rehabilitation Act

The Veterans' Land Act, 1942

Civil Service Act, Section 29 as to O.A.S. preference

Treatment Regulations (Class 3 unless Department of Veterans Affairs otherwise directs)

P.C. 2349 dated April 4, 1944, respecting Rehabilitation Grant.

The Interdepartmental Committee sought the opinion of Mr. W. G. Gunn, Departmental Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, as to the best method of implementing any recommendation which might emanate from the Parliamentary Committee to the effect that, notwithstanding a dishonourable discharge, a direction by the Board of Review to pay War Service Gratuity should carry with it authority to participate in the benefits named in the last five measures. Mr. Gunn advised that the best method is by way of amendment to the several Acts and regulations.

Section 12

SOLDIER SETTLEMENT ACT

GRANT OF CLEAR TITLES

The Interdepartmental Committee on Veterans Affairs examined a brief dated in or about November, 1945, from Messrs. H. C. Baker and Alfred J. Sibley, signing as President and Secretary, respectively, of the Soldier Settlers' Association of Canada. The brief refers to previous briefs directed to the Prime Minister and members of the Government in May, 1944, and to the Minister of Veterans Affairs in March, 1945. These also the Interdepartmental Committee examined as well as the submission of the Canadian Legion. The Committee also received a memorandum from Mr. W. M. Jones, Chief Executive Assistant to the Director, Soldier Settlement of Canada, and heard evidence by Mr. Jones.

The brief of May, 1944, asks that the soldier settlers who purchased from the Soldier Settlement Board be given, with effect September 3, 1939, clear title to their lands and restitution where the lands have changed hands, and that the same consideration be given their widows and orphans. The brief urges that, by grant of clear title, the soldier settler should have security and freedom from fear and want to the same degree as that given to the staff of the S.S.B. by way of superannuation. The brief cites cost of administration and points out that the grant of clear titles would save the country further administration expenditures. The brief states that a large number of soldier settlers are nearing 70 years of age and will find it impossible to complete a further 20-year contract under the provisions of Order in Council P.C. 10472 of November 19, 1942. The brief asserts that between September 1, 1939, and December 31, 1943, 2,418 settlers left or were put off their farms and, if this rate is maintained, there will be no soldier settlers left in another five years. The brief adds that the soldier settlers' association has secured the unanimous support of the Alberta Legislature, the 20,000 members of the Alberta Farmers' Union, the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, the United Farmers of Canada (Saskatchewan Section), and the United Farmers of Alberta.

The brief of March, 1945, urges that a clear title be given to all lands held by soldier settlers as at March 31, 1944. It is stated that practically all these settlers are over 60 years of age, indeed some are beyond 80 years; that at March 31, 1944, 6,153 soldier settlers, still holding contracts on their farms, owed an average of \$1,254 or a total of \$7,715,954.01. The brief states that the average annual cost of the administration is approximately \$1,100,000 and argues