

and the early returns indicate that the settlers are meeting their obligations in the same manner as a year ago. Nine hundred and twenty settlers have repaid their whole indebtedness to the Board, of whom 519 are continuing to operate their farms, while the remaining 401 have bought other farms or gone into other lines of business.

During the 1925 session of Parliament, the Soldier Settlement Act was amended to provide for a reduction of 40 p.c. in the case of the settler who had purchased live stock under the Act prior to October, 1920, and 20 p.c. in the case of the settler who had bought live stock under the Act after Oct. 1, 1920, and before Oct. 1, 1921. The Act provided that these reductions should be credited to the settlers' accounts, and final figures show that the following reductions were effected:—

On live stock purchased prior to Oct. 1, 1920.....	\$2,548,330
On live stock purchased prior to Oct. 1, 1921.....	355,327
	\$2,903,657

In the session of 1926 Parliament took up the question of the revaluation of soldier settlers' lands, and a Bill was introduced by the Government. As passed by the House of Commons, it provided for the appointment by the Minister of district arbitration committees having jurisdiction in each soldier settlement district, each committee to consist of three members—one a judge of the county or district court as chairman of the committee, one a representative of the Soldier Settlement Board and a third a representative of a settlers' organization, if any such existed in the district.

The depreciation in the value of the settler's property was declared to be the diminution not due to neglect or mismanagement on the part of the settler in the present market value of the land and the improvements sold to the settler, as compared with the price at which the settler purchased the land and improvements from the board. The improvements made by the settler were not to be included. These were the main features of the Bill that went up to the Senate on May 26. The Senate, however, amended the Bill by providing that the Soldier Settlement Board should determine depreciation in value; and if any applicant were dissatisfied with the decision of the board he should have the right to appeal to the Exchequer Court, whose decision in the matter would be final.

As amended, the Bill was sent back to the House of Commons, but it was not finally disposed of before the dissolution of the Fifteenth Parliament.

General Land Settlement.¹—The Land Settlement Branch is a development of the soldier settlement project under which over 30,000 returned soldiers were assisted in becoming established on farm lands. In 1923, it was recognized that the Department of Immigration and Colonization possessed no field colonization staff and that with open free lands gone, increased permanent land settlement and development could not take place without such a staff. The Soldier Settlement Board was therefore transferred from the Minister of the Interior to the Minister of Immigration and Colonization, and has since functioned as the Land Settlement Branch of that department. The Board's chairman was designated by the Minister as Superintendent of the Branch.

In 1924 an agreement was negotiated with the British Government providing for settling of 3,000 British families on Canadian Government-owned land within three years. Up to the end of 1926 the number of families approved by agents of

¹ See also pp. 182-3 of this volume.