**DISCHARGED SOLDIERS SETTLEMENT ACT FURTHER AMENDMENT BILL1923**

**House of Assembly, 30 October 19923, page 1105**

Second reading

**The MINISTER of REPATRIATION (Hon. G. R. Laffer)—**This Bill is introduced in order to empower the Minister of Repatriation to overcome certain administration difficulties which have made themselves felt in connection with the working of the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Acts. Clause 3 deals with the first of these difficulties. Under the terms of the existing agreements and leases granted pursuant to the Discharged Soldiers Settlement Acts the Minister has no power to cancel the holding of any soldier settler, except upon giving him three months’ notice in writing, or after obtaining from the settler a signed surrender in proper form. The provision requiring three months’ notice is in most cases a bill of sale, shall immediately become due and payable. The effect of this will be that if upon the cancellation of a holding a settler does not pay the money due under any bill of sale executed by him in favor of the Minister, the Minister will be empowered to take possession of the goods to which the bill of sale relates in satisfaction of the debt. Clause 6 merely rectifies a minor error in the Act of 1918. A number of cases are continually cropping up in which the Government have no power to take proper and necessary steps. There have been instances of men clearly abandoning their blocks and going away, and we could take no steps without resorting to cumbersome proceedings. In some cases the stock and plant had been abandoned, and general deterioration had resulted, particularly in the case of cattle, or where men have cleared out and left their horses.

Mr. Reidy—They should be punished.

The MINISTER of REPATRIATION— These amendments are not designed to interfere in the slightest degree with the general principles of the work carried out by the Repatriation Department, but are to meet certain specific cases which are very clear. I move the second reading.

Mr. GUNN secured the adjournment of the debate until October 31.