**RETURNED SOLDIERS SETTLE­MENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1916**

**House of Assembly, 8 November 1916, page 1898**

Second reading

**The COMMISSIONER of CROWN LANDS**—This is a machinery Bill which it is necessary to put through in connec­tion with the settlement of returned soldiers. It provides for a minor amendment of the Returned Soldiers Settlement Act passed last year. Under section 6 of that Act the Commissioner was authorised to advance money to returned soldiers to whom blocks had been allotted under the Act for the purpose of assisting the holders of the blocks in erecting buildings, purchasing stock and implements, clearing, fencing, and generally improving the land. The advances were to be made on the recommendation of the Land Board. It has been thought desirable, however, in view of the specialised character of the work, that a separate body other than the Land Board should be charged with the duty of making recommendations under the section.

Section 6 has, therefore, been redrafted so as to provide for the appointment of a committee, to be called “The Returned Soldiers Settlement Advisory Committee” who will advise the Commissioner and make recommendations to him as to the making of advances to returned soldiers under the section. The remainder of the new section is substantially the same as section 6 as enacted last year.

The Hon. A. H. PEAKE—This body is purely a voluntary one—a sort of subcommittee of the War Council. There should be some authority for it.

The COMMISSIONER of CROWN LANDS—The Bill gives authority for the Governor to appoint a committee which will have the force of law. Theadvisory committee, of which the honorable member is one, is purely an advisory committee appointed by Cabinet to assist the returned soldiers, and it has not the force of law.

Bill read a second time and passed remaining stages.