

ASSERT PRIVATE INTERESTS PUSH "SOLDIERS' BILL"

Big Fight Expected on Measure, Which Comes Up Soon.

BY LOUIS LUDLOW.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 12.—A big fight is looming up over the so-called soldiers' land bill, which has been reported out of committee and is now on the calendar to be taken up within a short time. A minority of the committee, of which Rep. Benham of Indiana is a leading spirit, has filed a minority report on the bill, attacking it severely as a colossal reclamation scheme to be put over in the name of the soldiers, and a great injustice to millions of returned soldiers.

The bill is sponsored by Rep. Frank Mondell of Wyoming, the majority leader, and he intends to push it hard despite the powerful opposition to it that is especially in evidence in the states east of the Mississippi river.

Soldiers Oppose Bill.

Much of this opposition comes from the soldiers themselves. When Lieut. Col. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., was here a few days ago to look after legislation of interest to the soldiers he told Rep. Mondell very frankly that the soldiers do not want his bill passed. Roosevelt is opposed to the payment of a money bonus to the soldiers, also, and thinks that a plan might be worked out whereby soldiers could receive technical and vocational training, whether they are disabled or not. The existing law provides such training for disabled soldiers.

The minority report on the soldiers' land bill is of decided interest. It asserts that the fears of Secy. of Interior Lane six months ago that millions of soldiers would find themselves out of employment have not been realized.

Shortage of Labor.

"Some economic phenomena have occurred," says the report, "and three quarters of the soldiers have returned to civil life and there is a shortage of labor in the cities and on the farms."

Therefore, say the minority signers, the need for the bill has passed. The report says:

"The testimony of the proponents of the bill shows that the scheme which originally was to provide employment for soldiers has become a great reclamation project. But such a colossal plan for reclamation of lands would never have been seri-

ously considered had it not been possible to link the name of the soldier with it. And soon the inevitable selfish interests appeared. Men who have much to gain in the upbuilding of certain localities began to talk about 'helping the soldier,' while they labored industriously in behalf of this bill which proposes not to reclaim public lands only but for the most part that the government shall buy the land that they shall afterward reclaim and sell to the soldier."

Hire Publicity Man.

A publicity agent was put to work spreading propaganda all over the country. With every member of congress favorable to the enactment of some legislation for the soldiers' welfare, an agent was employed by the Southern Settlement and Development Co.

"With brazenness amounting almost to effrontery, this press agent attended all open meetings of the committee and then gave to the papers of the country glowing accounts of what was claimed to be the beneficial provisions of this measure for the soldier. This press agent was not employed by the soldiers, who were supposed to benefit by this legislation, nor by the department of interior, so that there is a natural conclusion that private interests had something at stake."

Committee Is Favorable.

A different view is taken by the majority of the committee. One section of their report reads:

"The late Pres. Theodore Roosevelt well advocated the soldier settlement policy, as proposed by Secy. Lane, in the last article which he wrote for the press. Pres. Wilson has urged it upon congress in two messages. The governors of 27 states have appointed commissions to cooperate with the secretary of the interior, and all of these commissions have expressed their earnest interest in legislation of this character."

"The most vital question that can be asked in regard to this policy is this: Does the soldier want it?" The answer is: "He does." The American Legion has officially endorsed the bill, after a consideration of its provisions. Up to the present writing 112,084 soldiers have made formal application for opportunities of employment and home-getting under the terms of this bill. The number, which is increasing every day, ranges all the way from 6,752 in Illinois to 860 in Delaware."

DROWNS IN LAKE.

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TO SECURE ARMY FOOD FOR CITY

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Save money by patronizing merchants that advertise.

How to Lose Your Tan, Freckles or Redness

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MUCH TOO GOOD.

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"You say these are the best make," the young woman inquired. "Absolutely."

"How powerful are they?"

"See that hill way over those buildings?"

"Yes."

"Well, if there was a little snake crawling up there these glasses would bring it right up close to you."

"Well, if that's the case," the young woman returned, "I think I shall look at some that are not so expensive."—Youngstown Telegram.

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