

## EPILOGUE

The lucrative years for smallholders were short lived. By the 1970s, war service land settlers in rural Australia were once again experiencing fluctuating commodity prices, particularly in the grazing sector. Generally, the wages of urban workers had far outstripped the diminishing returns of settlers. Ex-servicemen were vulnerable unless they had managed to acquire more land or an off-farm income. Yet the images of wealthy landholders, created in the 1950s, lived on in the minds of the non-farming sector. Once again some ex-servicemen and their wives faced tough decisions. Fortunately, some of the older settlers gladly offered their farms for sale. Others soldiered on to capitalise on the inflated land prices of the 1980s. Nevertheless, the irony of public money being offered to smallholders in order to persuade them to leave uneconomic farms was apparent to many veterans. Certainly, they were aware that farm policy for the previous seventy years had promoted closer settlement.

The War Service Land Settlement Division should not be accused of negligence because they failed to foresee the inflationary trends. Few would have envisaged the unprecedented growth and economic pressures of the four decades following World War II. Nevertheless, the cost-price difficulties of the late 1960s and early 1970s reflect the dilemma associated with farming on a tight budget and determining a home maintenance area for an extended period of time. Frequent rural reconstruction continues to highlight the deficiencies of closer settlement as a policy for rural Australia.

## APPENDIX 1

### LAND GRANTS OF MILITARY AND NAVAL OFFICERS IN HIS MAJESTY'S TERRITORY OF NEW SOUTH WALES, MUSTERED IN 1801

<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>No. of Grants</u>	<u>No. of Acres</u>	
			<u>Leased</u>	<u>Purchased</u>
Lt. Col.	W. Paterson	1	100	-
Major	J. Foveau *	6	2,020	-
Captain	G. Johnston	5	586	-
Captain	J. Macarthur *	4	320	1,610
Captain	T. Rowley	6	667	238
Captain	E. Abbott	2	704	-
Captain	J.T. Prentice	2	108	-
Captain	J. Townson	3	124	-
Captain	J. Piper	3	110	30
Captain	N. Mackellar	2	100	150
Lieutenant	T. Davies	1	100	30
Lieutenant	T. Hobby	2	200	-
Lieutenant	W. Cummings	3	200	60
Ensign	N. Bayly	3	631	-
Paymaster	W. Cox	-	-	1,380
Surgeon	J. Harris	5	153	150
Surgeon's mate	J. Roberts	-	-	160
Quarter-master	T. Laycock	5	448	615
Naval Lieut.	W. Kent	3	430	430
Naval Lieut.	R. Braithwaite	1	100	90

\* Stock and land since muster sold to Captain Macarthur and Major Foveaux.

Extract from Historical Records of New South Wales, Vol. 4, 31 December 1801, p.649.

## APPENDIX 2

### RESOLUTIONS AGREED TO BY THE 1916 CONFERENCE BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH AND THE STATES AND THE FEDERAL PARLIAMENTARY WAR COMMITTEE SETTLEMENT OF RETURNED SOLDIERS ON THE LAND

- (1) That the Governments of the Commonwealth and the States should co-operate in the promotion of a scheme for the settlement of willing and suitable returned soldiers upon the land.
- (2) That the provision of land rests with the States, such land to be made available to dependants of deceased soldiers as well as to returned soldiers.
- (3) That the Federal Government provide funds by way of loans to the States for the purpose of making advances through the agricultural banks or similar governmental institutions against improvements, and for stock and implements, the State institutions to advance to soldier settlers such money at cost, plus reasonable working charges.
- (4) That, with a view to meeting the special requirements of soldier settlers, the State Governments be invited to liberalize the conditions applying to repayments for land and Land Bank advances, and, if practicable, upon a uniform basis.
- (5) That, in order to provide for the subsidiary requirements of returned soldiers, the citizens generally be invited to subscribe, either in cash or kind, to a special "Repatriation Fund", this fund to be raised by appeals from the Federal Parliamentary War Committee, the State War Councils, and their associated local organizations, and to be vested by Act of the Commonwealth Parliament in a body of trustees, the fund to be distributed subject to conditions to be prescribed by the Federal Parliamentary War Committee, and advances from it to be made to returned soldiers or their dependants for maintenance, or by way of general assistance to returned soldiers and their families as distinct from ameliorative aid, such as advances to be loans without interest.
- (6) That provision should be made, where necessary, for the immediate establishment by the States of training farms, on which inexperienced men might serve a probationary period for aptitude for the work. Where the State authority is satisfied, such training may be arranged for on approved private farms.
- (7) That, with a view to the elimination of men who are obviously unsuited for land settlement, application should, in the first instance, and within a prescribed period after discharge, be addressed to a central authority constituted by each State Government, the duty of which should be to classify applicants into three groups as follows: (a) those who are immediately eligible; (b) those who may prove so after probationary training; and (c) those who are unsuitable.

(8) That, concurrently with the proposals herein contained, every encouragement should be extended to approved private efforts for the settlement of returned soldiers on the land.

(9) That loans to soldiers for land settlement purposes as provided by Resolution 3 will be advanced at reasonable rates of interest not exceeding 3.5 percent each subsequent year to the full rate of interest at which the money has been raised, plus working expenses; the difference between these rates and the cost to the Government of money to be borne equally by the Commonwealth Government and the State Government.

(10) That, provided their military records are satisfactory, soldiers enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force, but not sent to the front, to be given the privileges extended to returned soldiers.

"Dependants" means the wife, widow or mother and children or ex-nuptial children of a member of the Forces, who were wholly or in part dependent upon his earnings at any time during the period of twelve months prior to his enlistment.

Conference of the Commonwealth and the States and the Federal Parliamentary War Committee, February 1916.

### APPENDIX 3

#### STATEMENT OF APPROXIMATE REQUIREMENTS OF THE STATES 1916-1918

State	Allotments for 1916-1918	Money Required  Pounds
NSW	5,000	2,500,000
VIC	3,616	1,750,000
Q'LD	8,000	4,000,000
SA	2,050	1,025,000
WA	8,850	4,425,000
TAS	660	233,000
<b><u>Total:</u></b>	<b>28,170</b>	<b>13,933,000</b>

#### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS 1918-1919

NSW	NO ESTIMATE	POUNDS
VIC	1,000	2,500,000
Q'LD	6,000	3,000,000
SA	1,000	500,000
WA	6,000	3,000,000
TAS	NO ESTIMATE	
<b><u>Grand Total</u> for 1916-19</b>	<b>42,170</b>	<b>22,933,000</b>

Conference of Commonwealth and State, 1916 Report, p.60.

## APPENDIX 4

### STATEMENT *RE* CONDITIONS OF LAND SETTLEMENT

<u>State</u>	<u>Maximum advance</u>	<u>Objects to which advance may be spent</u>
NSW	500 pounds.	Fencing, clearing, cultivation, house, implements, stock. Interest according to 1916 Conference. Repayment 25 years.
VIC	500 pounds	Farming, grazing and agricultural pursuits. Interest 5 percent. Repayment 20 years.
SA	500 pounds	Clearing, fencing, irrigating and general improvements, house and buildings, implements and stock. Repayment 42 years. Year 1, interest only. Year 2, 2.5%, Year 3, 3.5%, Year 4, 5%. Thereafter current rate.
QLD	500 pounds	Payment liabilities existing on holding, purchase stock, machinery, implements, erecting workers dwellings. Repayment 40 years. Year 1, 3.5% and rising 0.5% each year until the current rate.
WA	2,000 pounds  According to provisions of the Agricultural Bank	Clearing, fencing, cottage, horse and cart, stock and implements. Repayments 25 years. 5 years, interest only; then 5% and 6% for stock and machinery.
TAS	300 pounds for building and other respects according to regulation	General improvements, According to February 1916 Conference

As submitted by the Sub-Committee to the Premiers' Conference, January 1917.

## APPENDIX 5

### AN IDEAL FARM AS SUGGESTED BY A WELL KNOWN CENTRAL WESTERN FARMER

	250 acres at 10 pounds per acre	2,500
	5 miles netting fencing	750
	Subdivision fencing	100
	Water, windmill, tank etc.	300
	House	150
	Stable barn and machinery shed	150
	Two 100 ton silos	200
	Sheep and Cattle yards	50
<b>Plant</b>	1 x 4 furrow plough	42
	1 disc cultivator	42
	1 set harrows	12
	1 seed drill	50
	1 spring dray	30
	1 sulky	20
	1 swingle trees	5
	6 sets draught harness	36
	1 cart saddle and breeching	6
	1 set sulky harness	8
<b>Stock</b>	6 draught horses	120
	1 light horse	12
	2 cows	30
	100 cross bred ewes	175
<b>Total Outlay</b>		<b><u>4,788</u></b>

AA. A/2485/1 A/18 C/34, received by Department of Repatriation Headquarters, 28 July 1918, departmental file No. A.4156.

## APPENDIX 6

### LAND MADE AVAILABLE FOR SOLDIER SETTLEMENT IN NSW UNDER THE FOLLOWING TENURES

1. Homestead Farm (initially as a lease in perpetuity, but the 1917 legislation gave this category conversion rights).
- (2) Crown Lease of 45 years (which also gained conversion rights in 1917);
- (3) Returned Soldiers' Special Holdings (a lease with the right to purchase, except in the case of an irrigation block);
- (4) Group Purchase (a Certificate of Confirmation, freehold title, being issued after all the conditions had been fulfilled and all debt to the Crown had been paid);
- (5) Settlement Purchases (Promotion): According to the 1917 Amendment Act, one or more discharged soldiers might purchase privately owned land upon terms approved by the Minister provided that it gave additional farms by way of subdivision. In that case the Crown would provide the whole of the purchase money to a maximum of 3,000 pounds for land and improvements but in special cases or for purely grazing activities it could be increased to 4,000 pounds;
- (6) Share Farming or Leasing Private Lands; to assist men who desired to settle in special localities;
- (7) Settlement on Irrigation areas: to be administered by the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission with a special land board.

*New South Wales Official Year Book, 1922, pp.725-7.*

## APPENDIX 7

### SUMMARY OF THE VIEWS OF THE RURAL RECONSTRUCTION COMMISSION ON THE DIVISION OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

#### Commonwealth to provide:

- (a) Costs of pre-discharge training;
- (b) Living allowances and transport of selected applicants undergoing specialized training courses;
- (c) Amount of additional expenditure incurred by the States in arranging the specialized training courses after demobilization;
- (d) Payments to subsidize wages of applicants undergoing training whilst in farm employment;
- (e) Agreed contributions to irrecoverable costs of acquisition and preparation of lands for allotment;
- (f) Agreed contributions to irrecoverable costs of public works specifically associated with soldier settlement;
- (h) Capital requirements and net administrative expenses of financing settlers;
- (i) Administrative expenses of the Commonwealth Investigating authority;
- (j) Concessions of interest on loans to settlers;
- (k) Subsequent writings down of capital sums advanced. It is possible that the Commonwealth Financing Authority will have further losses caused by the changes in price levels of markets, especially international markets.

#### States to provide

- (l) Administrative costs of farm employment and training scheme;
- (m) Administrative costs of acquisition and preparation of land for allotment;
- (n) Agreed contributions to irrecoverable costs of acquisition and preparation of lands for allotment;
- (o) Agreed contributions to irrecoverable costs of public works specifically associated with soldier settlement;
- (p) Capital requirements for public works less Commonwealth contributions.

Rural Reconstruction Commission, *Settlement and Employment of Returned Men on the Land*, 1944, p.45.

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