

is subsection 2 of section 2 of the Bill as passed by the House of Commons, namely:

(2) Paragraph (p) of section two of the said Act, as enacted by chapter thirty-eight of the statutes of 1922, is amended by adding the following thereto:—"and also a mother whose husband is in a helpless and dependent condition."

It was proved before the Committee that this amendment would open the door to abuse and to a large number of cases—we could not determine what would be the number—in which dependents would receive very large amounts. I think there was one case in which the amount would have been exorbitant. Such cases would have fallen under this section.

The next section referred to is section 15 of the Bill as passed by the House of Commons. It again refers to pensions of widows:

15. Subsection one of section thirty-three of the said Act, as amended by chapter sixty-two of the statutes of 1920, is further amended by inserting after the words "married to him" in the second line thereof, the words "within one year after date of discharge from the forces or."

This would have opened the door for the pensioning of large numbers of members of the forces who, being very ill, would have married for the purpose of bringing a dependant wife under that provision.

The next clause is 16—widows' pension again:

Clause 16 of the original Bill has been struck out. It read as follows:—

16. Subsection two of section thirty-three of the said Act is amended by striking out the words "provided that the death occurs within five years after the date of retirement or discharge or the date of commencement of pension."

Clause 17 of the original Bill has been struck out. It read as follows:—

17. Subsection two of section twenty-six of the said Act, as enacted by chapter sixty-two of the statutes of 1920, is amended by adding the following proviso thereto:—

"Provided, however, that the Board of Pension Commissioners shall have discretion to pay the pension to any person who was being, or was entitled to be, supported by the pensioner at the time of his last examination."

The meritorious cases which were intended to be provided by these different clauses can be provided for under the new clause which I have read.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD: Would this clause making provision for meritorious cases cover any other case than those provided for in the 4 subsections you have mentioned?

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE: Yes, the clause is general; it is intended to cover all such meritorious cases as would come within the clause. It would not be restricted to the 4 sections of the Bill.

Now, I have but one word to add. When the Bills are in Committee of the Whole there

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE.

are members of the Committee who will be much better able than myself to answer any further questions which may be asked in connection with the Bills. I desire to say, in fairness to the officials of the Department connected with this matter—and in this I am expressing merely my own opinion—that I was impressed by the intelligence, the fairness, and the ability displayed by them. Those officials limited themselves, as was their duty to do, to answering questions of fact. On several occasions questions were asked as to their opinion, and the invariable answer was a refusal to give an opinion, they saying that they were to answer facts and not to give opinions.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The witnesses likewise.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE: All the witnesses the same, except one witness, Mr. MacNeil, who stated his opinion.

I move that the report be concurred in. In the last part of the report we ask that 5,000 copies of the report be printed for distribution to the soldiers themselves and the public.

It will be found on the face of the report how members of the force are treated in Canada as compared with the treatment given to the forces in other countries. Honourable gentlemen will have the satisfaction, as I had myself, to find, on reading the report, that our soldiers are treated very liberally, as they should be, as compared to those of other countries.

I move that the report be received, and that the Bills referred to in the report be committed to the Committee of the Whole House, with the three Bills.

Hon. W. A. GRIESBACH: Honourable gentlemen, I was a member of the Committee which dealt with this report, and with some portions of the report I am in agreement, and with others I am not. With respect to those portions with which I am not, I shall have an opportunity of discussing them on the second readings of the respective Bills; but there are a few observations with respect to the whole matter embraced in the report which I should like to offer now, as an opportunity may not present itself later.

As a matter of fact, as disclosed by the report of the Royal Commission, that Commission appears to have concerned itself in its travels throughout the country with questions of rights and justice, and of such amelioration as Parliament might provide. It does not appear anywhere in the report or in the proceedings of the Commission that there was an inquiry or a discussion as to