

costly matter, but there is some expense attached to it, of course.

Senator Grosart: Where would it be found in the main Estimates?

Mr. Currie: Under the Minister of Labour, statutory vote, payment of compensation respecting Government employees. It is in the order of \$3 million now per year.

Senator Blois: Mr. Chairman, if, for instance, we take the Canadian National Railways, they are covered by workmen's compensation, but as a rule—and I think I am correct in making this statement—their compensation is worked out through the province in which they are working, and then they in turn bill the Canadian federal Government. But thinking back to such examples, surely there must be more than \$50,000 involved, if all these Crown-owned companies are included in it?

Mr. Currie: Correct, My answer, I am sorry, was related only to the effect of these amendments. I thought that was the question. There are so few cases of the type that may be covered under these amendments that I would guess there would not be six per year at the most.

Senator Blois: I see. It refers to this only.

Mr. Currie: Quite so. Oh, absolutely. We have cases that cost more than \$50,000 per one incident.

Senator Blois: Right.

The Chairman: Are there any other questions?

Senator Grosart: Is there an appeal board which hears these claims? How is a claim disposed of? I will put it that way.

Mr. Currie: Any claim arising out of the provisions of the Government Employees Compensation Act, whether in Canada or abroad, is referred to my branch in the first instance. And our experienced claims people review it as to its acceptability. Was it an employee? Did it appear to arise out of and in the course of his employment? Is it part of the Government of Canada that is covered by the act, and so on? There are some general questions. If we are satisfied that it appears to be an acceptable type of claim, then we refer it to the provincial Workmen's Compensation Board of the province where the man is usually employed. They in turn make any

further investigations that are necessary and they then process the claim and pay it on our behalf. If there are any discussions we will get into them at a later stage. Sometimes they turn down claims which we think ought to be accepted, and the reverse happens as well: they may occasionally accept a claim which we think ought not to have been accepted. So we discuss and consider these together and usually work out a settlement between us.

If, however, the claimant is not satisfied with our performance or with the board's performance, he can appeal, and claimants frequently do appeal, to the compensation board in the province hearing the claim. We are sometimes represented. We can be represented all the time, if we wish, at these appeal hearings. Sometimes we are represented, if it is a serious case and if we have real grounds for doubting the validity of the claim. The employee is represented as well. He may appear himself or he may have counsel with him, and so on. The system varies across the country, but this is the general description.

The board decides whether or not there is a valid appeal, and they will reconsider and sometimes award a claim which they feel should be denied, or they might modify a previous award.

This can go on indefinitely, unfortunately. We have had claims continued under appeal for 20 years. One wonders sometimes, but a claim, theoretically, is never closed. If any claimant at any time can bring forward any new evidence indicating that he has an aggravation or that this condition was not there when he took his employment and now is there, and there is supporting medical evidence, we are always willing to listen again.

Senator Grosart: Would you say in general that the rights and the recourses of the claimant under this act are roughly the same as under the various industrial compensation acts?

Mr. Currie: Their rights and their entitlements are the same. They are certainly no less, and in fact under the new amendments proposed here they are even better.

Senator Roebuck: You have no statute of limitations when a claim has once been registered, but I presume you have some limitations on how long a person can wait before he registers a claim, have you not?

Mr. Currie: Yes. We tend to comply, as a matter of course, with the requirements in