

ing free lodgings or so long as she resides in Canada on account of her having an income from other sources which does not exceed \$240 per annum.

My objection is to the \$240 per annum. I contend that she should have no deduction made from her pension on account of any income which she has from any source whatsoever. The ordinary widow of a soldier who is killed receives a pension irrespective of whether or not he left an estate. Her husband, when he was killed, might have left an estate worth \$1,000,000, but his widow would still obtain a pension. The soldier's widowed mother should have absolutely the same right as the wife. It has been pointed out time and time again in this House and in committees that in no other province than Quebec can the widowed mother or the destitute parent claim, under the law, an allowance from the child. I am sorry for the other provinces if they have not that law because I think that is the natural law. After all, a man has a mother before he has a wife, and you can get rid of a wife—we have seen them got rid of time after time in this House in two minutes—but you cannot get rid of a mother. A man's first duty is to his mother, and if the State wishes to do anything along the lines of placing the parents and dependents of the soldier in the position in which they would have been had the soldier returned safe and sound, the mother of the soldier should be looked after just as much as his widow. That is my contention. I have contended for that during the three years in which I have been a member of this House, and shall continue to do so until I am no longer a member. The next clause provides that:

The pension to a parent or person in place of a parent shall not be reduced on account of the payment to such parent or person of municipal insurance on the life of a deceased member of the forces.

A large number of cities throughout the Dominion early in the war decided to insure the lives of soldiers from the city up to a certain amount, varying from \$500 to \$1,500. A special provision has been made in this Bill not to deduct from the widowed mother anything she may receive from municipal insurance on her dead son. I would suggest that no insurance of any kind, municipal or otherwise, should affect the amount of pension. After all, the insurance which she received on account of her son was something that he worked and paid for. Surely you are not going to deduct from the pension, meagre enough as it

[Mr. Power.]

is, that a widowed mother receives on account of the death of her son any amount she may receive from insurance. I therefore beg to move that subparagraph (5) which provides that the pensions of parents shall be always subject to review shall be stricken out. It is the clause providing for the visits of these inspectors and visitors whom so many members of the House have found so obnoxious.

Mr. NICHOLSON (East Algoma) I wish to support the position taken by the hon. member (Mr. Power) on this question of reviewing pensions granted to mothers or dependent parents, and on the whole question of interfering with the pension they may receive by reason of having some small additional income from some other source. When this subject was up before, I mentioned three specific cases that had come to my knowledge, and I am going to give them again now. One mother who lost her only two sons in the war has three daughters working out as domestics, and because it was found by some inspector sent out by the Pension Board that these daughters might perhaps contribute to their mother's support \$5 or \$6 or \$10 a month, the mother's pension was reduced. In another case a dependent parent, a father 76 years of age, went out to work in the summer months to augment the small income he derived from the pension, and his pension was therefore entirely wiped out. In another case a friend found that a widowed mother was paying a fairly high rental for the house she was living in, and a gentleman out of the goodness of his heart decided he would give the widow a free house to live in. When this was found out by the Pension Board, her pension was proportionately reduced. Surely the dependent parents and widowed mothers have suffered enough in the loss of their sons without having their income constantly reviewed with a view to reduction of the pension. I do not believe this country is small enough to want to do that, and I hope that before this Bill passes the minister in charge will accept the amendment of my hon. friend (Mr. Power) to strike out these provisions altogether. I can think of nothing more nauseating to the widowed mother of a fallen soldier than to have these inspectors coming around to see whether the small amount of pension on which they can barely live is being augmented in any way. Let us give them the pension and say nothing more with regard to it.

Mr. TURGEON: I have much pleasure in supporting the amendment of my hon.