

when this situation was recognized by the government five years ago and by the then Minister of Soldiers' Civil Reestablishment, it has not been dealt with. That is why we make this suggestion to-night in order that, something may be done to take care of the situation.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): During all these years large sums have been paid out annually for this very purpose.

Mr. CLARK: Not to take care of these cases at all. They are not being dealt with and have not been dealt with by any legislation. They may have been dealt with spasmodically by some unemployment relief, more or less applicable to all classes in the community. This is an entirely different situation. The member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Ross) said that this legislation will not help the returned men because it will be twenty years before they can take advantage of it. I repeat what I said a few minutes ago. I know of many returned soldiers who were over fifty when they enlisted, and who would qualify to-day if this measure were in force and the age limit were 65. In fact there are many who would qualify at the age of 60. I suggest that most of these men lost five years from their commercial enterprises and their lives have been shortened probably by five years. That in my opinion should make them qualify ten years younger than the average man. We are only asking that they qualify five years younger. That request, I think, is very fair and reasonable.

I agree that this is a Dominion responsibility, and that the pension act should be amended, but I do not believe that any province will object to do something towards alleviating this situation. The member for Wetaskiwin (Mr. Irvine) made the point very clear. If at the age of sixty-five these men are indigent and unable to take care of themselves by their own labour, they become a charge upon the municipality and upon the province in which they reside, and the province must care for them anyway. Why not recognize that situation now, and if the responsibility is federal let the federal government say, We will contribute one-half of the amount that the municipality or the province is obliged to contribute by reason of that situation.

Mr. McQUARRIE: I agree with what has been said by the previous speaker. As a matter of fact, last session I made a similar suggestion to the House, and the present Minister of Health then took the same stand that he takes to-night. In answer to a question by myself he admitted that the govern-

ment did not propose to bring in any legislation at that session to meet the situation. I suppose the same answer would be given to-night as to giving a preference to the returned men in this connection. I go a little further. In my opinion the age of 70 is too high, and the limit should be considerably reduced. I do not suppose the minister will consider any suggestion in that connection because he has said we must take this bill as it is, he will not entertain any amendments. My proposition is that if we are going to have old age pensions we should deal with them on a proper scale, and should not take the lowest scale prevailing in any other country. I have in my hand a pamphlet issued by the Department of Labour last session entitled, "Old age pension systems existing in various countries." It was published as a supplement to the Labour Gazette of March 1926. This pamphlet gives the age limit in England as between 65 and 70 years; in Australia pensions are paid to men at the age of 65 and to women at the age of 60, but a man who is permanently incapacitated may begin to receive a pension at 60; in New Zealand pensions are payable to men of the age of 65 and to women at the age of 60, unless the applicant is a parent of two or more dependent children under 14 years of age, in which case the age limit is reduced by five years; in Czechoslovakia the age limit is 65; in Denmark, 65; in France, 60; in Germany, 65; in Iceland, 60; in Italy, 65; in Luxemburg, 65; in Spain, 65; in Sweden, 67; in Switzerland, 65; in Uruguay, 60; and in several of the states it is 60. I must say in all fairness that in some of these countries contributory or insurance systems are in operation; but that makes no difference to my argument, which is that the age limit in this bill is too high. I suggest to the minister that notwithstanding his previous statement he should once more consider putting Canada on a reasonable basis in regard to old age pensions.

Mr. RYCKMAN: We have heard a good deal about the care which this government was going to take of the returned soldiers who could not obtain consideration under the Pensions Act, but up to the present time nothing has been done in this direction. There has not been even a gesture. Now we are considering old age pensions, and I will ask the Minister of Public Works where he would provide for old age pensions if not in the old age pensions bill itself. The marginal note to the section under consideration is, "What persons are pensionable", and the section enumerates those eligible. If there is a proper place to deal with old age pensions