

that difference. My suggestion is that further consideration should be given this point. At the present time \$40 a month is about the equivalent of \$20 before the war, so that there is no increase. I am making a plea for these women. They are all getting older, especially those from the last war. First of all, the deadline was 80 per cent. If the disability was over 80 per cent the widow automatically got the pension. Gradually that was lowered to 50 per cent. I do not know why that figure was decided upon. The widow whose husband had a 50 per cent disability is in the same category as the widow whose husband's disability was 45 per cent.

Mr. MUTCH: It is now 48 per cent.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): The difference between \$850 and \$485 is considerable. The amount of the allowance at the present time is only \$40 a month, which is no more than the equivalent of \$20 a month before the war. As regards both the burnt-out pensioner and the widow, it would be only a small matter for the government to bring the allowance up to \$50 a month. The minister has referred to old age pensions, but that has nothing to do with the matter. The widow's husband when overseas suffered a certain degree of disability, and she looked after him. Some consideration should be given her. It would not hurt the dominion if the amount were increased to \$50. The amount the veteran is allowed to earn is also ridiculously low when one considers the cost of living. I know of one veteran who can earn a bit more than \$250. He is suffering from silicosis and cannot work all the time. He is a stone worker and that is all he gets, so that his income for the year is very small. Something should be done to increase these allowances.

Section agreed to.

Sections 4 and 5 agreed to.

On section 6—Maximum allowance in certain cases.

Mr. LENNARD: A married couple under the Old Age Pensions Act in some provinces can get up to \$80 a month, and under this act as revised the maximum is a little over \$70 a month. I know what the answer will be: they receive pension at sixty years of age instead of at seventy. But when a war veteran reaches the age of seventy, in order to receive the additional \$9 or \$10 a month under the present regulations he may not wish to transfer to the old age pension scheme. In many cases I do not think the veteran would wish to do that. I think he would wish to feel that he was getting his pension from the source from which he had earned it, instead of transferring to another source.

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Mr. KNIGHT: Paragraph (c) of this section refers to a veteran deserted by his or her spouse. I was thinking of the contrary case where the veteran deserted his spouse and I was wondering about the rights of the wife under those circumstances. Where there is a voluntary separation, established over a number of years, the veteran can claim and receive veterans allowance only as if he were a single man. Is that correct?

Mr. GREGG: In the situation outlined, the allowance would belong to the veteran.

Mr. KNIGHT: The spouse has no claim in the matter?

Mr. GREGG: No.

Mr. KNIGHT: Is it a fact that in the case of an established separation, a voluntary separation, the veteran when he draws the veterans allowance draws only such veterans allowance as is customarily granted to a single man?

Mr. GREGG: That is correct.

Mr. KNIGHT: To follow that up a little further, the man's receiving his allowance as a married man—that is to say, receiving the greater amount—is conditional upon the fact that he is living with his wife.

Mr. GREGG: That is right.

Mr. KNIGHT: If the circumstances are such that he does not live with his wife, and he still has to support her—which is true in many cases—he still can use to support her only the amount of his allowance which he draws as a single man and not as a married man. That is also correct, is it?

Mr. GREGG: For ordinary normal absence, the allowance for the wife would be continued. As in most things, it is a matter of intention. If they are apart and intend to live together, and if everything is in order with regard to their marriage relationship, certainly their allowance will be continued. But if they have broken it up for any reason, then he would be a single man as far as we are concerned.

Section agreed to.

Sections 7 to 9 inclusive agreed to.

Title agreed to.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shall I report the bill?

Mr. MUTCH: Just a minute, Mr. Chairman. There are some amendments to be made.

Mr. GREGG: There are one or two amendments from the parliamentary committee.