

*War Veterans' Allowance Act*

it said of me that I had held up the progress of the bill through the house, because I am extremely anxious that its benefits reach the veterans concerned.

It is most appropriate at this time that we should be considering this type of legislation on the very eve of the 39th anniversary of the day on which these old veterans, then young men, brought to a successful conclusion the first world war. In so far as the bill is concerned, I am not going to comment on it except to note that in most respects it implements a great deal—

**THE ROYAL ASSENT**

A message was delivered by Major C. R. Lamoureux, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable the Deputy Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable house in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker with the house went up to the Senate chamber.

And being returned:

Mr. Speaker informed the house that the Deputy Governor General had been pleased to give, in Her Majesty's name, the royal assent to the following bills:

An act to provide for advance payments for prairie grain prior to delivery thereof.

An act to amend the Old Age Security Act.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

**AFTER RECESS**

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

**WAR VETERANS' ALLOWANCE ACT**

AMENDMENTS RESPECTING ALLOWANCES,  
INCOME, COVERAGE, ETC.

The house resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Brooks for the second reading of Bill No. 28, to amend the War Veterans' Allowance Act.

**Mr. C. F. Kennedy (Colchester-Hants):** Mr. Speaker, this bill serves two purposes, firstly it closes a great many of the gaps in the war veterans legislation, and secondly it extends in at least one way—in regard to the war veterans who served in England—the number of veterans who will receive some of these benefits. It is a recognized fact that the veterans of the first world war aged rather prematurely; one has only to refer to the "last post column" in the magazine known as *The Legionary* where by descriptions, numbers, etc. one can see designated the first world war veterans who have passed on. In many cases their ages are listed.

[Mr. Kennedy.]

It would seem that the maximum allotted life span for veterans of the first world war is three score years. We must recognize that even the youngest veteran of the first world war is approaching that age and therefore we must suppose that these veterans will be a fast diminishing group.

This legislation provides for additional aid to those who spent years in England. I cannot speak for the conditions in that country during the first war as I was not there, but in the second war it appeared to me—I am now speaking for the soldiers—that the strain was perhaps as great as it was in many areas of action. It was not uncommon in England to look around to find your circle of close friends greying very rapidly, even in a matter of a few months. I suggest even under the strain in our House of Commons there are some who have not become grey haired yet. These troops to arrive in England, which was really the goal set for those who joined the army—to get overseas as they called it—first of all had to undergo certain hazards. Those hazards were about the same in both wars; submarine infested waters to cross and so on. In most periods of the last war it was not much less hazardous than during the great war. When they joined and went overseas some of them were married and left families behind, but all of them left loved ones behind and perhaps most of them their business interests. There was naturally a certain amount of strain upon them as they put in the months or years during which they were detached from the life to which they were accustomed.

There is another aspect of this matter. When these men returned, having been torn loose from familiar things, they found themselves in their later years, having been subject to many perils, in many cases more or less broken in health, because in the first war medical science was not advanced to the state it has reached in the last 10 or 15 years. It was not until their later years that they could settle down to their own family life. Then we find the veteran, late in life with his family at the stage where they needed a higher education. This same veteran had long been taught that the next generation must be well educated and here he was in perhaps the poorest financial shape of his whole lifetime and having to deal with this problem. He was therefore in very bad shape to attend to providing for his old age.

I do not intend to say any more on this subject but I do want us all to remember that in this generation we have come into a great inheritance in this country. This inheritance came to us fairly easily but those