

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: With regard to the administration of this Pension Act, I would point out that, while it is not perhaps the fault of officers at headquarters, there are men receiving pensions who are not entitled to anything like what they are receiving, and on the other hand there are men receiving pensions that are entirely too small. Sometimes the local boards are too careful and take altogether too light a view of the injury done to the pensioner. Some cases of that kind have come under my own notice. I know of two men who are in receipt of very considerable pensions and whose services to the state were worth little or nothing; whereas men who were excellent soldiers and rendered splendid service to the state and have been badly injured are not receiving what they should receive.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: If my honourable friend would at any time mention any case in which an obvious injustice has been done, the Government will be only too glad to have the case reviewed; for these cases can be reviewed at any time. If our attention is directed to it, I shall see personally to a review of the case.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: I shall be very glad to do so. I have a case in mind now. I have to-day received a letter from a man who is apparently unable to work. An order was sent from headquarters here for him to be taken to the hospital at Lancaster; that is over at West St. John. The doctor turned him out, and he is receiving a pension of, I think, only seven dollars a month or something like that. A medical doctor at one place, on an order from headquarters here, sent him to the hospital, and then the doctor in the hospital said there was nothing to be done for him.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Will my honourable friend give me the particulars? I shall have inquiry made.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: I have a number of cases. I have always found, when I have spoken to officers at headquarters, that they were desirous of doing the right thing; they were courteous and kind, and took the right view of matters. But some of those local men, probably men who have never themselves served, do not appear to appreciate the situation. I make this statement merely because I want to do justice to the headquarters officers, who have been courteous, kind, and attentive always.

Section 5 was agreed to.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED.

On section 6—pension of or in respect of persons wounded or killed while in training, etc., increased while recipients reside in Canada:

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: I notice that this clause says:

The pensions which are now being paid to or in respect of members of Canadian Naval or Military Forces—

Does that not include the Air Force?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Those who served in the Air Force during the war belonged to the Imperial Service. The Air Force was not the Air Force of Canada, although a great number of Canadians served in it. They are under the Imperial pensions.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: They do not come under this?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: No.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: This Pension Act is a continuing Act, I suppose. Does it in any way apply to the men who are in the service at the present time? There are a certain number of Air Force men in the Departments at present. As I understand, there is a military branch of the Air Force and there is a civil branch.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: This Pension Act, as I understand, applies only to members of the Expeditionary Forces. This clause applies to pensions awarded prior to the outbreak of the war to those who took part in the Fenian Raid, the Northwest Rebellion, the South African War, etc.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: Oh, this does not apply to the Great War?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: This is simply to extend the pensions under the Act to those who participated in those other wars.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: It does not affect the situation at the present time?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: No.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: There are no men in the permanent forces who are entitled to any pension under this Act?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: They have a Pension Act.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: A separate Pension Act?