

APPENDIX No. 4

committee is, that we follow in some degree the American practice of giving a fixed pension for a fixed injury; but those injuries which are not fixed and which under treatment or in time, are likely to improve, should be classified, and a supplementary pension of a temporary nature given to cover the period during which the man is likely to suffer such disability. I am not speaking in this for the commission, but for myself, after looking fairly closely into this matter. But pensions for the loss of limbs, or for the loss of any functions which cannot be repaired, I think should be for life. There is no reason why it should not be laid down absolutely that, if I lose my leg below the knee, I am entitled to a certain pension. There is no need to investigate my case at all; that pension is due to me, and it should be mine for life. Now, may I pass to the next point.

By the Chairman:

Q. Would you give the same pension to the officer who loses his leg as to the private?—A. I am sufficiently democratic to say yes.

By Mr. Macdonell:

Q. Would you have no classes?—A. I should very much prefer that there be no classes. Taking the next point: according to the present Act, pensions are granted to the man only, except when he is totally disabled, then a pension is granted to the wife and a further pension to the children. Take the case of a man in the first degree who according to the present Act is wounded in the sight of the enemy. He gets a pension of \$22 a month; his wife is given a pension of \$11, making a total of \$33. If he has three children, then he gets \$5 for each child, making a total of \$48 a month. Supposing, however, the Medical Board find that man's disability is 75 per cent—I am open to correction if the percentage is named wrongly—he falls short of the total disability pension, and gets the second degree, namely \$16 a month, and his wife, if he has a wife, gets nothing at all. There is a difference in the case of a man with three children, of from \$48 down to \$16 a month. Now, a great many cases have come under my notice in which this scale is working very hardly. Men have not been totally disabled, but they have been so far disabled that a pension of \$16 a month is a mere pittance, and according to the New Zealand and Australian Act, pensions are given in all degrees, or may be given in all degrees, to dependents. I have here the definition of "Dependents" given in the Australian Act. It says: "'Dependents' means the wife or widow and children or ex-nuptial children of a member of the Forces, whose death or incapacity results from his employment in connection with warlike operations, and includes such other members of the family of that member of the Forces as were wholly or in part dependent upon his earnings at any time during the period of twelve months prior to his enlistment, or who would, but for such incapacity, have been so dependent, and parents who though not dependent upon the earnings of the member at any time during the period of twelve months prior to his enlistment are, at any time within five years after his death, without adequate means of support; and where the member (i) being the grandparent of an ex-nuptial child, leaves the child so dependent upon his earnings; or, (ii) being an ex-nuptial child leaves a parent or grandparent so dependent upon his earnings, includes such an ex-nuptial child and parent or grandparent respectively." I strongly urge, sir, that, in any revision of our Pensions Act, dependents of others than those who are totally disabled should be eligible for pension. I should like to give an illustration which came definitely before me the other day. This letter was received from the Secretary of the Returned Soldiers Manitoba Commission, and reads as follows:—

"I wish to bring to your attention a case of Mr. and Mrs. Hodge, 431 Simcoe street, Winnipeg, whose two sons, Henry B. Hodge No. 109400, and Robert L. Hodge No. 106021, both belonging to the 4th Batt. Canadian Mounted Rifles, 2nd Brigade, have been killed, the first on December 1, 1915, and the second was killed on December 10, 1915. Mr. Hodge is 78 years of age, and