

investigates the needs of the applicant under war veterans' allowance legislation and applicants for relief? Are they the same people?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: Yes, to a large extent they would be.

Mr. RALSTON: For instance, not to mention any names, in Montreal or Halifax is it the administrator of the unit who has charge of the investigation as to the need of the applicant?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: Yes.

Mr. RALSTON: In Montreal say, has he a board of two or three?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: No, there is no board. The district administrator would be governed by the general regulations and he would have to make the decision.

Mr. RALSTON: Would he make a personal investigation?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: Yes.

Mr. VENIOT: I wish to ask a question concerning the methods adopted in New Brunswick to ascertain who are entitled to allowance. Suppose an application in my home town is made by a pensioner under this act I understand an inspector is sent or asked to make a report upon the applicant. I forget the inspector's name—he resides in the county of Northumberland. Has that inspector authority to decide upon the amount of relief that pensioners should get?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: No, he would first have to make a report to Lancaster hospital in St. John.

Mr. VENIOT: Well, it is not being done. The inspector goes to the house, questions the family and tells them **right then and there**, "you can get so much and no more." I know one case where the pensioner was getting about \$13 a month. He was a major in the army overseas. He was out of work and applied for relief. He finally got word from this inspector in the next county, who sent an order for groceries to the amount of \$4.28 per month, I think. That was all he could get. That inspector never inquired what was being granted by the county of Gloucester or the municipality; all he allowed that family to get—husband, wife and I think two children certainly one—was \$4.28 a month for groceries. I do not think that is right.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: If the hon. member will drop me a line giving the name I will look into it. I think he is entitled to more relief than that.

Mr. VENIOT: Well, the man has work now; he does not require relief. But he certainly did at that time, and he refused to accept that order; he felt it was an injustice. He said he was not looking for charity, and he refused it. He brought the order and showed it to me. He said: "If I cannot be treated better than that I will not accept it at all." This is going on in Northumberland and Gloucester.

Mr. HOWDEN: I have a matter to bring to the attention of the minister. It may not properly come under this vote, but I consider it important. Perhaps the quickest way to present it would be to read a communication from the office of the ladies' auxiliary, Canadian War Disability Pensioners' Association:

On behalf of the Ladies' Auxiliary to Canadian War Disability Pensioners' Association, I am instructed to call to your earnest attention the fact that we are suffering grievously by not being able either to get free medical relief or to pay for it. Our incomes, as you know, are very small, and it is utterly impossible to pay medical fees, consequently we have to suffer.

A short time ago the child of one of our Winnipeg pensioners died for lack of medical attention. This has been verified by a letter to the press, by Dr. McPhail of Winnipeg, the doctor who was called in after the disease had gained too much headway. This is only one case—there are many, many others.

People on relief in this city, even the former enemy people, are able to get free medical assistance in time of sickness, but we whose husbands gave their best to the country have to go without and suffer in silence. Many of our members (including myself) and our children are in need of medical and dental assistance right now, but cannot get this help. We would also like to be allowed to engage our own family doctors, as is now being done by families on relief in this city.

Sick benefits are given to needy pensioners—why not extend it to their dependents—their needs are equally great.

This is a decided injustice, and we believe that if this is brought to the attention of those in control, that the situation can very easily be remedied, therefore, we hope this matter will have your careful and immediate attention.

That is signed on behalf of the above association by a number of ladies, whose names it is not necessary to read. I may tell the minister that this is not the first I have heard of this state of affairs; it has been put up to me, as it were, a number of times by the wives and widows of overseas men that it was impossible for them to obtain medical relief for either themselves or their families. It seems a pity to think that they should be penalized merely because their husbands were overseas and rendered service to the country, because all others in our part of the