

have the Woods Report and we know, at least I think I know, that the Department is studying that angle of the question and it is not easy to find a solution. If Mr. Anderson wants to add some very short comments on it, that would be all right, but I would not want to get too many more questions on the basis that is used and has actually been used for many years.

Mr. T. D. ANDERSON (*Chairman, Canadian Pension Commission*): Yes, Mr. Chairman; you are quite right. This whole question is under very serious study at the moment and owing to the fact that it is a matter which the Minister has under consideration it is not, perhaps, not completely proper for me to comment on it. That is about as far as I would be prepared to go at this stage to tell you that it certainly is receiving a good deal of very serious consideration.

Mr. HERRIDGE: I think that is correct, Mr. Chairman. This could be the cause of an extensive study by the Committee later.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Herridge. I think that this concerns the whole problem of veteran's pension and if you recall the address that the Minister made to the Canadian Legion, he was tackling the subject of the basis for basic pension rates and also the subject of the possibility of adding an automatic increase. He was trying to establish a basis and I know Mr. Anderson said he was giving intense thought and study on this matter at this time.

[*Translation*]

Mr. ÉMARD: Will we have an opportunity later on, in this Committee, to discuss the increase of veterans' pension?

[*English*]

The CHAIRMAN: When we deal with the estimates we have all the leeway needed to bring up these questions if we wish. We will definitely have the opportunity to discuss this question deeply when we have the Woods report before us. That might take a few months though.

[*Translation*]

Mr. ÉMARD: I appeared before the Wood Commission and I submitted a report. I was told that it was not up to the Commission to discuss pensions, it was not a subject that they could discuss, that is the increase of veterans' pension. Am I wrong or did I not understand properly?

[*English*]

The CHAIRMAN: It does not mean it will prevent us from discussing the matter in the committee. Besides, as I said, we will have the opportunity to discuss pension rates and everything about pensions when we have the estimates before us, which will be this week, I think.

Mr. Tolmie, did you have anything else?

Mr. TOLMIE: Yes. There is a statement here which says there is one class of pensioners, about 100 in number, who automatically receive a minimum award of \$5,508 per annum. Now of these, over one-third are regularly and gainfully employed. My question is: What type of disability would warrant a pension of that magnitude if they are able to work and are gainfully employed. You mention later on something about other important elements.