

HON. MR. LAPOINTE: The balance, 20 per cent, would be from 50 per cent disabled to 100 per cent disabled.

MR. GREEN: The measure at the very most cannot help more than 20 per cent of the pensioners—that is if everybody with a pension over 45 per cent gets this supplement. The percentage of the total pensioners in Canada would be 20 per cent.

HON. MR. LAPOINTE: Those receiving 45 per cent disability and above if married, and 35 per cent if single.

MR. GREEN: Of those 20 per cent there will be a good large number who are employed and therefore cannot get any benefit from the plan. Now, have you not worked out at all the approximate percentage of the total number of pensioners in Canada who stand to benefit from this plan?

THE WITNESS: I do not think we have worked it out on exactly those terms, Mr. Chairman.

MR. GREEN: I beg your pardon?

THE WITNESS: We have not worked it out exactly on those terms. We have naturally had to make an approximate calculation to arrive at the sum which was placed in the estimate or vote.

MR. GREEN: Would you say half of the pensioners receiving over 45 per cent pension would get this supplementary allowance?

THE CHAIRMAN: You would have to divide that, Mr. Green, because the single men get it at 35 per cent.

MR. GREEN: Well, the minister gave the figures as including the group 25 to 45—

THE CHAIRMAN: If we had the percentage of single and married pensioners I think we would get a better approximation.

MR. GREEN: Could the deputy not find out for us approximately what percentage of the total pensioners in Canada would benefit by this measure?

THE CHAIRMAN: Would likely be benefited?

MR. CARROLL: Well, I suppose, Mr. Chairman, that a person might be employed today but this time next year he will be unemployed.

MR. BROOKS: Another thing is the old age pension. When a man becomes 70 I understand that automatically he takes the old age pension instead of the allowance.

THE WITNESS: Yes.

MR. GREEN: As of the present time could there be worked out figures which would show of the approximate number of pensioners the number that would get benefit of this change?

HON. MR. LAPOINTE: We could make an estimate.

MR. GREEN: You could.

HON. MR. LAPOINTE: We could endeavour to do so anyway.

MR. HERRIDGE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask General Burns who would be directly responsible for the administration of this change, in view of the fact the situation would be fluctuating almost from month to month particularly in the country.

THE WITNESS: It is intended that the district authorities be set up on the same basis by which the war veterans allowance is administered. That is to say in your case, Mr. Herridge, it would be administered from Vancouver.

MR. HARKNESS: You mean by that there will be a whole new administration set up to determine unemployability?