

## APPENDIX No. 2

boards which are composed of reputable professional men who know their business and who are often the seniors, professionally, to the men on the medical board, men of twenty or thirty years' standing in the community; these men make an estimate of the degree of disability, but it is reduced when it comes before the Pension Board. You cannot, gentlemen, say that is reasonable, and I get more complaints about that from all over the country, than from anything else. Another case which I desire to bring to your attention is that of a young man who is in the employ of the Government and who, because he gets a salary, gets no pension now; six months ago he got a pension of \$42, but now he gets nothing, they simply cut him off; why did they cut him off? Is it because he got a raise of salary from the Government? They say they do not do that, but this is an actual occurrence. The case of Mrs. Thompson of Fredericton has already been brought up by Mr. Archibald. Mrs. Thompson's son was killed at the front, perhaps Mr. Archibald does not know that the bank notified her that her services would not be required at the end of the year. When the case was brought by me to the attention of the Pension Board, Mrs. Thompson had received such a letter from the bank and was anticipating being laid off at the end of the year, but fortunately some other men interested themselves in her case and the bank manager kept her on. That woman is in very poor health, and is really unfit to work, and if the bank keeps her on, it is not because she is able to do the work, but only from sympathy. Mrs. Thompson is not well, and if any woman in the country is entitled to consideration it is she.

*By Mr. Cronyn:*

Q. I understand the trouble is that under the law she could not get a pension?—  
 A. As a matter of fact, Thompson never contributed one single dollar to his mother from the time his father died; she put him through the academy, and through the law school, and he was ready to begin the practice of his profession when he went to the front. This is a case of prospective dependency. There is another case, that of Richardson who went overseas and left a wife and three children; after he had been away a year, his wife died, and in the absence of the father the only thing that could be done was for the sister to take charge of the three children. She already had an old mother to keep, and in order to be able to look after the children she had to leave her position as stenographer in a law office. Six months after the death of his wife Richardson was killed. That leaves these three little children fatherless and motherless, and I think they should be cared for as wards of the State. It is far better for the sister of the father to care for these children, rather than they should be brought up by strangers, yet that woman gets no allowance whatsoever. She has only a meagre allowance upon which to keep the children, she gets \$48, and she cannot carry on the responsibility of the care of her old mother and those three children on that sum. Now, if the wife had lived she would have received a wife's pension and also the allowance for the children as well, and I do not see why in a case like that, where the sister has really become the foster mother, she should not get the full amount of the pension which the mother would have got in order to bring up these children in decency and comfort.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. You think in such a case as you have mentioned, the dependents should be entitled to the same pension as the mother would have received?—A. Yes, for this reason, if the children are put into homes they will in all probability in the course of time be adopted out, and those children grow up in ignorance of their father and mother, and they will never know what they lost when their father and mother died or that their father died for his country. I do not think it is right. I do not believe that these children should go out among strangers, or be placed in institutions. The Salvation Army has adopted several children in the same way, but those children will never know when they grow up who their father was.

[Mr. Norman Knight.]