

his death, subsequently falls into a dependent condition, such parent or person may be awarded a pension provided he or she is incapacitated by mental or physical infirmity from earning a livelihood, and provided also that in the opinion of the Commission such member of the forces would have wholly or to a substantial extent maintained such parent or person had he not died.

As I understand the present Bill, it means that a distinction is abolished between prospective dependency and dependency itself, and under this clause, whether there was a prospective or an actual dependency, there would in any event be a liability to pay that pension. I pointed out that the Pension Board at present have considerable trouble along these lines, and they say that were this to go further by the legislation proposed in this Bill it would mean an added expenditure of about \$600,000 a year.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: I think I am called upon to give a reason why I am prepared to support the Committee in regard to this clause; it is not quite the same reason as the honourable gentleman has given. Under the law as it now stands the widowed mother of a soldier is entitled to a pension of \$60 a month, regardless of any income she may have. This clause proposes to take in prospective dependents, such as a woman who is the mother of a pensioned soldier, and who by reason of the death of her husband, or the failure of an estate, or some other event, may become a dependent mother some time in the future. She would be put in the same classification as a widowed mother under the Act.

At present, if the mother of a pensioner becomes a dependent she gets a pension; but because she is a dependent of that nature, who has come in subsequent to the pensioning of the individual, the pension which she receives is subject to several deductions. If she has a private income exceeding \$240 a year, it is deducted to that extent. If she adds to her income by her own labours, that is also deducted.

It seems to me that the state, having regard to all the liabilities that we have with respect to pensioners, is fairly liberal in dealing with the prospective dependent, because it goes to the extent of seeing that she has a livelihood, by allowing her \$60 a month, deducting therefrom her earnings and her income. Her livelihood, in thus secure, even though the state does not pay it all.

In view of our commitments and our obligations, it does seem to me that we go too far when we seek to bring in that class, and put them in the same class with widowed mothers as of the date of the pensioning, and

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enable them to draw the full pension without any deduction whatever. That is the purpose of this clause—to relieve those widowed mothers of the deductions which are applied to their pension. It is estimated to be done at a cost of \$616,000 a year with the same amount next years plus an increase of \$48,000, and so on for the next 7 or 8 years, when there will be a reduction caused by deaths.

In view of the work we have to do, and in view of the obligations which we have to live up to with respect to pensions, and of the fact that there are in my judgment, classes of cases still more deserving, I object to the dissipation of our funds on classes not as well entitled as other classes closer to our hand. For that reason I am prepared to agree that this clause be struck out.

Section 11 was stricken out, as recommended.

Section 12 was agreed to as amended.

Section 13 was agreed to.

On section 14—additional pension to dependents while residing in Canada of members of Allied forces domiciled and resident in Canada:

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: I think this section will require a little consideration. It provides that a supplementary pension paid on account of ex-Imperial officers resident in Canada prior to the war shall be payable to a mother whose husband is both physically helpless and in a dependent condition. The mother of a member of the Canadian forces is now pensionable on the above condition at the discretion of a board. It would seem reasonable that a supplementary pension paid to an ex-Imperial member should be paid as above. The cost would be infinitesimal.

Section 14 itself reads as follows:

14. Section forty-seven of the said Act as enacted by chapter sixty-two of the statutes of 1920 is repealed and the following section is substituted therefor:—

"47. When a person of the rank of Warrant Officer or of a higher rank in any of His Majesty's naval, military or air forces other than the naval, military or air forces of Canada or when a person in the naval military or air forces of one of His Majesty's Allies who was domiciled and resident in Canada at the beginning of the war has died during the war or thereafter as the result of a disability incurred during the war or demobilization and his widowed mother, mother whose husband is both physically helpless and in a dependent condition, widow or children have been awarded a smaller pension than they would have been entitled to under this Act in respect of his death, such widowed mother, mother whose husband is both physically helpless and in a dependent condition, widow or children shall be entitled, during the continuance of their residence in Canada, to such additional pension as will make the total of the two pensions received by them equal to the pension that would have been awarded if the person aforesaid had died in the military service of Canada."