

textile commission and the wheat marketing commission, both known as Turgeon commissions, and the penitentiary commission, known as the Archambault commission. Then there is the Rowell commission on dominion-provincial relations just over in the next field, on the way back—

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is out of order in discussing commissions not pertaining to pensions and health.

Mr. GREEN: I was just going to say that this Rowell commission threatens to fill the whole barnyard when it gets back. But to get back to the Rattray commission chicken, it had the unfortunate experience of coming back to the doorstep of the Minister of Pensions and National Health. I think that was a very unhealthy place for it to land, for after a certain amount of deliberation the minister proceeded to give its neck a twist by turning down the main recommendation, which was that the dominion government should accept responsibility for temporary assistance to indigent unemployed veterans who are employable; in other words, for unemployed veterans who are fit, with several provisoes: first, that these men must have served in a theatre of actual war, or, in other words, that they must have been front line men; second, that they must have been domiciled in Canada at the time of enlistment; and third—and I point this out particularly—that they must be willing to work. If they were not registered with an employment agency; if they showed any sign of being unwilling to work, then they were not to be eligible for this assistance. It should be pointed out also that this recommendation does not apply to pensioners or to veterans in receipt of the war veterans' allowance as burnt-out soldiers. These groups are cared for in other ways.

The reply of the government to this recommendation by its own commission was definite and complete. I quote the remarks of the minister, which are to be found at page 1040 of Hansard:

Most hon. gentlemen will agree with me in considering that the one hundred per cent fit man is not the responsibility of the federal government. If he is out of work at the present time it is due to economic causes, and not to war causes.

That is a statement which, I think, needs many qualifications. But the minister went on:

If a man is absolutely fit to work it is extremely difficult to attribute his unemployment to his war service.

Then at page 1459 the minister said:

I want to repeat that the government does not think it should accept responsibility for

the care and maintenance whether by way of an economic allowance or otherwise, of 100 per cent fit men.

That was a definite and complete rejection of this recommendation, and a denial of any responsibility for the care and maintenance of the fit front line men. It was rather surprising, in view of past events.

The problem of the unemployed war veteran, who was not a pensioner or the recipient of war veterans' allowance because he was burnt-out, came with the depression. It was so bad by 1934 that in that year the Canadian legion made an extensive survey of unemployment among veterans. In January, 1935, they asked the late Conservative administration to have an investigation, and in March of that year the Hyndman committee were appointed. They were instructed to investigate facilities for providing employment for unemployed veterans and also—and I stress this point—to investigate the facilities for the care and maintenance of these unemployed veterans while unemployed, showing that the government of that day recognized the fact that Canada had some responsibility for the care and maintenance of these veterans while they were unemployed.

Late in May of 1935 the Hyndman committee brought in an unanimous report finding that the dominion government should assume some responsibility for these men. I quote the following from page 5 of that report.

We are of the opinion that Canada as a whole would shrink from any policy which would permit these unemployed non-pensioners to remain in want and dire distress, as some of them undoubtedly do, and would approve of reasonable assistance being extended to them during temporary unavoidable idleness, until such time as occupations suitable to their ability can be found.

They recommended that the government should add to the relief paid to veterans by municipalities where the municipal rate was below that paid by the Department of Pensions to small pensioners. They recommended further that a veterans' assistance commission be set up to help find jobs for these unemployed veterans. Later in 1935 came the election, and I have no doubt every hon. member heard about the Hyndman committee report. Probably many of them undertook to implement those findings.

Then, in the 1936 session this government passed the Veterans' Assistance Commission Act which under paragraph (e) of section 6 provided the following:

6. The commission shall,—

(e) investigate into existing facilities for the care and maintenance of veterans while unemployed and report thereon with such suggestions or recommendations as may be deemed advisable.