

one set of regulations namely the table of disabilities and these we amend fairly regularly, with the possible exception of the assessments for disabilities, such as the loss of a leg, arm and so on, which have remained fairly constant over the years. However, there are no rigid regulations.

Mr. HERRIDGE: I would like to put a question in respect of rehearings where new evidence is offered based on the evidence that could be given by a comrade who was at a particular place at a certain time. I have had cases where a man was anxious to get the address of someone who served with him. What is the procedure that is used in these particular cases?

Mr. ANDERSON: Well, of course, we have access to the files and records and if this person to whom the man is applying for assistance in presenting his claim is a veteran—and in most cases they are—then we can assist him in locating the individual by obtaining the man's address from the files in central registry. Now, mind you, this presents something of a problem because the man does not always stay put. Where he was subsequent to his discharge and where he is today may be widely separated. The best we can do is ascertain the last address which appears on his records in the records department and send this along. We have gone to greater lengths than that. The veterans' bureau do a good deal of this sort of thing. They try to trace the individual from his last address and so on. However, gentlemen, I can assure you that every possible effort is made to get whatever evidence we can in this way and to assist the man in digging up the evidence which will support his claim.

Mr. HERRIDGE: Does the commission or the pension bureau seek the assistance of the legion and other veterans organizations in tracing the address of the men?

Mr. ANDERSON: The Veterans Bureau will. They will seek assistance from anyone who can provide it.

Mr. CHATTERTON: It would appear to me that quite frequently in the summary of evidence given before the commission in cases where laymen generally come forward and give evidence a comment is made in the summary "friend of the applicant". This to me leaves the impression that because they are friends of the applicant their evidence may carry less weight. Am I wrong in my interpretation of this?

Mr. ANDERSON: Yes. This is not so. The evidence is given the same weight regardless of the relationship of the witness to the applicant. It depends entirely on the credibility of the evidence itself. We do not judge the individual witness adversely simply because he happens to be a friend of the applicant.

Mr. HERRIDGE: Mr. Anderson, have you any suggestions to make to the committee in respect of problems that you face in the administration of the commission?

Mr. ANDERSON: Well, no specific suggestions, Mr. Herridge. It is the old problem we are all faced with. A good deal of the difficulty which arises, so far as we are concerned, results from a misunderstanding of the legislation. I am sure the members of the committee can be of help to us in this regard when people come to them with complaints. It would be very helpful if they were in a position to explain exactly what the provisions are, what is provided by the act and what the responsibility of the commission is. May I say that I do think members of the committee and members of parliament generally do this, and we appreciate it. I hope it will continue. I think that is the only thing I would suggest at the moment.

Mr. HERRIDGE: Do you think anything could be done to improve the veteran's understanding of the act and its administration by articles in veterans'