

Supply—Pensions—Relief

Mr. SUTHERLAND: The hon. member is partly in error when he states that if a municipality were giving \$7 to single men, and a returned man was drawing a pension of \$5, we would make it up to \$7. We would make it up to \$15 regardless of what the municipality was paying. We have a basic rate which is a minimum rate. It is only when the municipalities pay more than our basic rate that we put the latter up. In case such as he has cited we would bring the amount up.

Mr. REID: I am glad to hear that. I can assure the minister that those complaints were made to me in all seriousness before I left for Ottawa. Has the minister any statement to make regarding the returned man not on pension? I know every consideration should be given to those who have been wounded, but there are others who find themselves in pretty bad circumstances not only physically but financially and who are being turned down by municipalities that say: It is too bad, but you should apply to the pension board for assistance.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: That is a very rare thing for municipalities to do, because if a man has not a pension we can take it as a general rule that his value on the labour market is not impaired or diminished by any war disability.

Mr. REID: It is not a case of the labour market. We perhaps have peculiar conditions out there. We have hundreds of men on small holdings who are being kept by the municipalities, many of them being returned men. It is a case of destitution, not of the labour market.

Mr. POWER: It seems to be thought that there is a discrimination in favour of imperial soldiers and men who served in allied armies, in the matter of distribution of relief. As the minister read out the categories entitled to relief I understood him to say that first, Canadian pensioners who are obtaining a pension of from five to twenty per cent, and secondly, enumerating the classes who served in the imperial army or allied armies, he stated that in those cases a man who had received a gratuity in lieu of pensions was entitled to relief, whereas a Canadian soldier was not entitled to relief at all if he had received a final gratuity. Am I right?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: No, these are all pensioners, former members of the imperial forces or the forces of His Majesty's allies who were resident in Canada on or before

[Mr. Reid.]

December 1, 1924, who are in receipt of pension payable by their respective government—

Mr. POWER: Read on.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: Or who have received a final payment under the provisions of any act or regulation for permanent disabilities assessed between five and twenty per cent. That last clause of course applies mainly to Imperials. Canadians who received a final payment other than a gratuity, are entitled to relief if the pensionable disability has persisted.

Mr. POWER: I understood from the minister a moment ago that Canadians who had received a final payment were not entitled.

Sir EUGENE Fiset: Yes, that is the answer that was given.

Mr. POWER: Did I understand the minister aright?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: I referred to those who have received a final payment under the provisions of any act or regulation for permanent disability assessed between five and twenty per cent.

Mr. POWER: They are not entitled to relief?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: Yes, they are subject to the condition I have named.

Mr. POWER: Then I take it that Canadian soldiers not entitled to relief are those who received a final settlement of less than five per cent, that is the \$75 or \$100 gratuity which was granted on discharge?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: That is right.

Mr. MULOCK: That does not change what was said before. Pensioners who are in receipt of pensions between five and twenty per cent are entitled to the benefit of this legislation?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: Correct.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: Suppose that in my own district, where it is all rural municipalities, not very anxious to give relief, a small pensioner is out of work and the municipality refuses to recognize him; is there any place he can go to get redress?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: Yes, he should make application at Deer Lodge hospital.

Mr. RALSTON: Is there any connection between the staff, or is it the same staff that