

The CHAIRMAN: I continue:

The more general requests for increased rates of pension, based on the nature and effects of the disability resulting from malnutrition and other stresses must be considered in relation to the assessment of other disabilities. This is a difficult and challenging problem. If disability were to be assessed only in relation to employability in the unskilled labor market, which has been named in the Table of Disabilities since 1921, as the measure, it might be possible by sociological surveys to assess the relative importance of, for example, the loss of an eye and the fusion of a joint. This has not been attempted in Canada, and would not be conclusive.

The Pension Act defines disability as the loss or lessening of the power to will and to do any normal mental or physical act. The Table of Disabilities sets out assessments for conditions which do not have any demonstrable effect on earning power or choice of occupation. As a further illustration, there is one class of pensioners, about 100 in number, who automatically receive a minimum award of \$5,508 per annum under the Pension Act. Of these over one third are regularly and gainfully employed, others partially employed and still others admittedly fit for employment but disinclined to accept it. The rate for 100 per cent disability in Schedule "A" of the Act is \$2,400 per annum for a single man. Very clearly while loss of earning power and restrictions in the labour market are important elements in the assessment of disability they are not the only ones. Nevertheless, the data indicating within what limits earning power and standard of living have been affected by disability, and the data on social relationships and activities do help to round out a picture of disability which cannot be fully described in medical terms alone.

Are there any questions?

Mr. ÉMARD: Could I ask Mr. Anderson what he thinks of the—

The CHAIRMAN: You can ask your question in French; we get translation from French to English.

(Translation)

Mr. ÉMARD: I would like to ask Mr. Anderson what he thinks about Page 62, the formula used to evaluate the pension, "Employability in the unskilled labour market" category. I would like to point out that in 1921, all we had was unskilled labour, we had no semi-skilled labour and no thought was given to base this limit on these trades, so I think that the table that has been used should be revised. Does Mr. Anderson think that we should still base our calculations on unskilled labour, whether we should take that as a basis? Actually there is very little unskilled labour nowadays in industry in general. There are very few, there are cleaners, that is about all. But in 1921, there were very few workers who were semi-skilled. Would it now be possible to review this scale today to establish earnings based on semi-skilled rates?

(English)

The CHAIRMAN: Before Mr. Anderson replies, I think if we go in to that field we will open the discussion quite a bit. This will come before us when we