

by veterans organizations in particular, but I do not think it is fair to say that the interpretation has not worked to the advantage of the veterans.

Mr. JUTRAS: In the British system is there a set age at which a veteran is automatically considered unemployable?

The WITNESS: No, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. QUELCH: I think there was just one point we should have clarified.

Mr. MELVILLE: There is a very interesting extract I made from a ministry of pensions report dealing with this point and with which I might answer Mr. Jutras.

The average age of the 1914 war pensioner is now about 60.

It is the same in Canada—we are 61 or 62.

—and the consequent limited capacity for undertaking new work often turns the scale in favour of the grant of the supplement to a pensioner, who may also be handicapped by the absence of suitable light work in the district in which he lives. Sympathetic consideration is given to every factor which may have a bearing on the elderly pensioner, in ability to obtain or retain work within the capacity of his disabled condition, and the supplement is awarded if the disablement can be said to be the main although not necessarily the sole cause of unemployability.

Mr. BROOKS: Do I understand the minister to say that this will affect only 10 per cent of the pensioners?

Hon. Mr. LAPOINTE: No, I did mention that there were only 10 per cent of all pensioners—

Mr. BROOKS: Unemployable?

Hon. Mr. LAPOINTE: I did say that only 10 per cent of the pensioners were of 80 per cent disability or more.

Mr. BROOKS: I did not get that statement.

Mr. GREEN: What number is it expected will benefit from this change?

The WITNESS: Mr. Chairman, that has been a very difficult thing to estimate. We had to go on the basis of the results of the casualty rehabilitation in World War II—that is the experience which has been gained by our departmental officers in placing in employment the most seriously disabled World War II veterans. That experience has been very good, and there have been less than 10 per cent of those seriously disabled who have been unemployed. That does not take into account the many cases which everybody here knows about, of pensioners who have retired from the attempt to get employment and who do not go around to the employment exchanges or apply to the department to get employment. We cannot make any computation of the number of those pensioners who are out of the employment stream. According to the best of our knowledge there will be 10 per cent plus an indeterminate number of present pensioners who will benefit by this measure. Of course those will be pensioners who are over 45 per cent disability in the case of married men and 35 per cent in the case of single men.

Mr. GREEN: The minister said 60 per cent of all pensioners got 20 per cent or less.

Hon. Mr. LAPOINTE: That is right.

Mr. GREEN: And another 20 per cent—

Hon. Mr. LAPOINTE: —are between 25 and 45.

Mr. GREEN: Yes.

Hon. Mr. LAPOINTE: That leaves 20 per cent.

Mr. GREEN: That makes a total of 80 per cent of the pensioners, leaving 20 per cent of them, which would be the maximum field in which there could be any benefit from this measure.