

force we were sending to the United States to obtain recruits. Those men might have remained at home, for the provisions of the proposed treaty between the United States and Canada I do not think were ever put into force; but if they had been those men certainly would not have been affected until such time as the United States entered the war, and they might not have been killed at the front. It strikes me that having promised to place those men on the same basis as our Canadian soldiers, it is our duty to see that their widowed mothers are treated in like manner.

Mr. EDWARDS: In case that widowed mother's son had not come from the United States and enlisted in the Canadian forces, but had enlisted in the United States Army and was killed, how would her pension from the American Government compare with the pension that we give her?

Mr. NESBITT: About half.

Mr. POWER: I am not sure.

Mr. EDWARDS: How does the pension that we give her compare with the pension that would be received by a widowed mother in England? My recollection is that our pension is nearly double that given to a widowed mother in England, and that it is about 25 or 30 per cent higher than the pension given in the United States. All that we are proposing in this clause is that if the widowed mothers have no other means they get the full pension, no matter whether they live in England, Scotland or in the United States; but if they have other means then a certain reduction is made, which I think will still leave the pensions they receive higher than those paid in the United States or in England.

Mr. POWER: I am willing to agree with the hon. gentleman from Frontenac that the United States pensions for widowed mothers are lower than ours, and I know the English pensions are much lower. But, after all, that boy was a Canadian soldier; we went to the United States and asked him to join our army; and his mother having allowed him to go, is entitled to absolutely the same treatment as widowed mothers residing in this country. Because we can say, "Well, in the United States widowed mothers are not obtaining so much as they would in Canada," I do not think it is fair to deprive the widowed mother of a Canadian soldier of what is due to her. We have not got to follow the American example, nor the English. I think it is our duty to give these widowed mothers

absolutely the same pensions as we give to widowed mothers in Canada.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Perhaps the section might stand for a little further consideration. I should hesitate to depart from the report of a committee which has given such very careful attention to all that could be said on this subject, and which has made this report with, as I understand, practical unanimity. On the other hand, there is something to be said for the point of view advanced by my hon. friend from Shelburne and Queen's (Mr. Fielding). I do not think that the suggestion put forward by the hon. member for Brome (Mr. McMaster) would be practicable, because we would have this condition of affairs: that widowed mothers going from Canada to live in Great Britain would be side by side with other widowed mothers receiving a less pension, and merely for the reason that they have never lived in this country. It is perfectly true, as my hon. friend from Quebec South (Mr. Power) has said, that we did invite recruitment in the United States. I think the recruiting took place among young Englishmen who had been living in the United States for a number of years, and many of whom desired to join the Canadian forces, and also among Canadians who had lived in that country for some years. My hon. friend is mistaken in supposing that the treaty between Canada and the United States did not go into effect. It was not made until after the United States entered the war, but it did become operative and was acted on in both countries. However, in view of the expressions of opinion which have been put forward, and which are deserving of consideration, it might be well to let this section stand for the moment.

The CHAIRMAN: Sir Robert Borden moves that section 23 be allowed to stand for further consideration.

Mr. McKENZIE: As far as following the recommendations of the committee is concerned, we reached page 6 of the Bill before any stop occurred, and I think that such excellent progress is a great compliment to the committee.

Mr. NICHOLSON (Algoma): I wish to say a word on clause 23—

The CHAIRMAN: A motion for a clause to stand is not debatable.

Section stands.

On clause 26—additional pension to dependents, etc.: