

Mr. LALONDE: I do not think, Mr. Pugh, there would be a great number involved. It is a matter of principle, in regard to this small number as compared with the great number of veterans living in the United Kingdom and the United States. The number in this category would run to nearly 100,000 veterans of both wars who are living outside Canada.

Mr. ROGERS: Mr. Chairman, I have one point I would like to bring up. It is my understanding that this hardly corresponds with the old age security recipient who has lived 25 years in Canada and he, or she, does not have to come back here.

Mr. LALONDE: That is correct, but there is no means test under the Old Age Security Act, as you know. One of the reasons which was put forward to extend this period of absence under the Old Age Security Act was that Canadian citizens who had lived here for 25 years and had paid taxes have acquired the right to the benefits of that legislation.

Mr. ROGERS: I think that answers the question. I did not think of the means test.

Mr. WEICHEL: I would like to ask how this concerns the Polish allied veteran, for example.

Mr. LALONDE: The Polish allied veterans are covered under clause 3 of the bill.

Mr. WEICHEL: Yes, I see.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any other questions on clause 1?

Clause 1 agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN: Clause 2; subsection (1) of section 14 of the act, which was repealed and is now a new subsection.

On clause 2—*absence from Canada*:

Mr. LALONDE: This is only an administrative section to effect the transition.

Clause 2 agreed to.

On clause 3.

Mr. HERRIDGE: On that point, Mr. Chairman, how does the department determine with certainty the war service of a person who applies as having served in His Majesty's allies or associated armies of His Majesty's forces, and in particular, in any of His Majesty's allies or powers associated with His Majesty's allies in any war concluded or terminated on or before the 15th day of August, 1945 and who has resided in Canada for a total period of ten years? How do you make certain that the war service is valid?

Mr. GARNEAU: We make certain, Mr. Herridge, as best we can by writing first of all to the veteran who applies giving his particulars of service. On that basis we cause a letter to be written to the war office of the British ministry in England, if it is an Imperial veteran, and obtain his service record. If the individual is a veteran from a force of an allied country, such as France, and Italy in regard to World War I, we ask them to search their archives for the records giving full particulars of the individual's service. We generally receive satisfactory proof that the ex-allied veteran has served in the forces of that country from such a date to such a date, and that he had been wounded or received this decoration or that decoration. We accept that information on the same basis as we would accept the war record of a Canadian veteran.

Mr. HERRIDGE: As in other cases you write to the appropriate ministry of the government concerned?

Mr. GARNEAU: Yes, sir. Sometimes when the exact record cannot be traced we are forced to turn down the application, but if the veteran can satisfy us by documents that may be in his possession pertaining to his service,