

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

Room 277, March 13, 1941.

The Special Committee on Pensions met this day at 11 o'clock a.m. The Chairman, Hon. Cyrus Macmillan, presided.

The CHAIRMAN: If you will come to order please we will proceed.

At the close of our last sitting we were discussing section 4 of Bill 17. Before proceeding, I should like to ask the committee if it is your wish to proceed with the bill now, or to take up the brief history of Canadian military pension legislation, a copy of which was given to each member at our last sitting?

Mr. REID: My idea would be to get on with the bill and to get through with it and then to consider the other.

Brigadier-General H. F. McDONALD, *Chairman, Canadian Pension Commission*, recalled:

The CHAIRMAN: Now, gentlemen, we were on section 4 of Bill 17. Will you proceed?

Mr. REID: It is understood, Mr. Chairman, that we are just having the bill explained at the moment?

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE: There is no decision being taken with respect to any section at all. We will come back to all the sections later on.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any other questions with respect to section 4?

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE: I think Mr. Green asked a question of General McDonald in regard to the history and an explanation of the pension tribunals, I think it was?

Mr. GREEN: Yes.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE: You wished to have a brief history of that section, did you not?

Mr. GREEN: That is right.

The WITNESS: By the amendments to the Pension Act passed in 1930 (20-21 George V, chapter 35. Assented to 30th May, 1930) the Federal Appeal Board which had existed since 1923 was abolished and the Board of Pension Commissioners continued. Up to this time no provision had been made for any retiring allowance or superannuation of any members of either of these bodies. The amendments of this year, besides continuing the Board of Pension Commissioners, created the Pension Tribunal and the Pension Appeal Court. This enactment contained the following provisions:

10D. (1) The Governor in Council, upon the retirement of any member of the commission, or of the Pension Tribunal or the Pension Appeal Court, who has served upon one or other of such bodies during at least twenty years, or who has so served during at least ten years and has reached the age of seventy years, or is physically or mentally incapacitated, may grant to him a pension for his life not exceeding one-third of the salary to which he was entitled as such member.