

made. In other words, we must keep within the bounds of the statutes of Parliament and of the Orders in Council providing that a man is only entitled to treatment under certain conditions. It has been our effort to keep within those bounds, but if there is any doubt, we give the benefit of the doubt to the man. In other words, we want to be shown that the case comes within those bounds. If we are satisfied that they do not come within those bounds, we do not propose to put the Government to the additional expense; but if the man goes before a civilian doctor, is examined, and places the matter before us; if we change our decision on that additional information and decide that the man is entitled to the provision which he seeks, we pay the expense he is put to in going to the civilian doctor. If we decide that there was no justification, he is out of that money, because otherwise it would mean an enormous amount of money. We have been questioned in connection with the staff. We have a large staff in the Department, but we have much work to do. Take this question of medical examination. It requires a professional staff, and you cannot hire a professional staff for the money that you'd pay stenographers. You must have doctors with certain qualifications before they can be of any good. As I have indicated, it has been our aim to give the man the benefit of the doubt, but it has also been our aim to keep within the provisions laid down for us.

Q. I appreciate that, but I would like to point out the injustice that is being done on account of the lack of information along the lines you have expressed, that is in respect to the department not giving that information to the applicants as to the steps they can take, and cutting them off sometimes, perhaps, in a shabby manner, so that they are compelled to wait six months until they can be examined by the travelling medical board?—A. I have indicated that we advertised. The war has now been over for some four years. We have advertised pretty widely all the provisions made by the Department, but it is possible that we have not reached all the men. It is possible that some men will never hear of the provisions in effect in the Department. I do not know whether there is anything further that the Committee thinks should be done along that line. If there is, we shall be only too pleased to carry out the wishes of the Committee in connection with additional publicity either in the way of notifying the men themselves or in a general way.

*By Mr. Arthurs:*

Q. Would your Department be willing to accept a rule along this line; I do not mean an Order in Council—just a rule—that no pension should be discontinued or changed except for medical reasons, except after an examination by the travelling board? I know of cases where a man has been in receipt of a well deserved pension, and where he has appeared before some local doctor who is paid by fee through your Department. In some cases it has been said that the doctor was not very friendly to the men because he was not the practitioner that they usually employed. Yet pensions have been cut off or materially reduced. Personally I do not think that a pension should be reduced or discontinued until after examination by a regular medical board employed by your department. It is all very well to have the first examination, but an examination should also be held by your travelling board. Would a suggestion along that line be acceptable to the Department?—A. I would suggest that that matter be taken up by the sub-committee on pensions when I would have an opportunity of making recommendations.

Q. We have you now before the Committee.—A. Yes, but the trouble is that to answer a question of that kind it would be necessary to go into the matter in very great detail, and my object is, as far as possible, to keep away from a too detailed discussion. Moreover, in order to answer that question, I would like the Committee to hear from Col. Thompson, of the Pensions Board, and Dr. Arnold. We would be very glad to go into it at any time.

[Mr. N. F. Parkinson.]