

Mr. CHATTERTON: In the case of civil servants they have the option.

Mr. CROMB: I was thinking of the civil servant who retired many years ago, around 1946 or 1947, where the superannuation was very small. We do not get many like that now.

Mr. McINTOSH: Do you get many applications from veterans residing outside of Canada?

Mr. CROMB: We get inquiries, but they must apply here. When someone wishes to come to Canada and writes to the board, we send them information, such as we distributed this morning, to give them an idea of the financial circumstances in which they must be, and when they arrive here they are instructed on the offices where they are to apply. They can then make their applications. But they cannot make an application abroad.

Mr. McINTOSH: Could you give us some idea on how many inquiries you received in the past year?

Mr. CROMB: Not more than a dozen.

Mr. HERRIDGE: Could you inform the committee on how many veteran or widow recipients have returned to Canada and spent the required year here before applying for the allowance? That is one regulation that I think is a bit stiff.

Mr. CROMB: Do you mean those who are required to return to qualify? I do not know of any. Most of them do not go abroad unless they are properly qualified, that is, have lived here 12 months prior to leaving. There may be one or two such cases but they have not come to my attention.

Mr. P. B. CROSS (*Deputy Chairman, War Veterans Allowance Board*): I know of two or three husbands and wives who have returned from England to collect their allowances, but I know of no widows.

Mr. HERRIDGE: I have one in my constituency who had gone to England six months prior to the change in the law.

Mr. CROMB: I misunderstood you, I thought you were speaking of cases who had been on the allowance and had to come back to get it again.

Mr. HERRIDGE: This widow returned to Canada to apply.

Mr. CROMB: Yes, that is necessary, she has to come back to apply.

I should like to say here that allowances are being paid to 448 veterans and widows residing outside of Canada, of whom 207 are in the United Kingdom, 192 are in the United States, and the remainder in other countries, some of them as far away as India, Australia, Italy, Lebanon, and Greece. We also have one in the Soviet Union.

Mr. HERRIDGE: We are quite cosmopolitan, are we not?

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions?

Mr. CHATTERTON: How many of these W.V.A. recipients are in the unemployable category?

Mr. CROMB: All W.V.A. recipients are supposed to have reached the point where they are no longer employable.

Mr. CHATTERTON: Under the age of 60?

Mr. CROMB: We have no first world war veterans under 60 of course but we have 7,007 world war II veterans who are under 60, and 131 commonwealth and allied forces veterans who are under 60. If you take widows under age 55 of world war I veterans, we still have 295. In world war II, 820 who are under 55, and 16 widows of dual service veterans and 61 widows of commonwealth or allied veterans under age 55. By the way, all this material is in the annual report.