

concern to your membership for many years. This year that is left out of your brief

Mr. BELL: This is still a subject which is under very active consideration by our association and was considered at our last convention and approved. There have been so many changes in the provincial legislation in respect of hospitalization, however, that we did not put it into our brief this time because we are examining the present legislation province by province. We may have it in again next year; I do not know. We did think we should concentrate this time on the Pension Act primarily. We did not leave this other out because we are not worried about it any more.

Mr. MCINTOSH: Are there any other topics in the same category which you have not covered in this brief?

Mr. BELL: During the last convention, Mr. Chairman, we approved about 20 or 25 resolutions, but we feel that each time we appear before you we should pick on certain of our major resolutions. This time we decided that just these four on the Pension Act would be taken up, but we do have other problems and will be presenting them to you at a later date.

Mr. HERRIDGE: For the sake of information I would like to ask Mr. Bell another question. Is there a considerable percentage of amputee pensioners who suffer from discomfort or inconvenience from their amputations over a long period of years? I mean a matter requiring treatment and things of that sort.

Mr. BELL: Yes. There are quite a number who require continuous treatment because of stump conditions. There are others who let it go perhaps too long and they have real trouble. However, there is constant trouble with stumps requiring treatment.

Mr. BENIDICKSON: Would Mr. Anderson give us some estimate as to the amount in dollars saved by the denial of pensions to widows who receive compensation from a fatal accident law suit. What has been the value of this to the crown?

Mr. ANDERSON: I am sorry I could not give that offhand. I could get it.

Mr. BENIDICKSON: Somone made reference to an amount of \$800,000.

Mr. BUTLER: That is my memory of the figure from last year.

Mr. BENIDICKSON: Is that a cumulative figure?

Mr. BUTLER: Yes.

Mr. BENIDICKSON: That is what the crown has saved to date.

Mr. BUTLER: This is straight memory; I do not know. I would say it has not been a great deal, over the years.

Mr. BENIDICKSON: Also this is the item in respect of the request to make payments to widows during the first year after death on the same basis as it has been done under the War Veterans Allowance Act. This is a matter of policy, and as the minister is not present I think perhaps the chairman and the clerk might make a note of these two points. I think most of the members of the committee would like to have the minister explain the reasons for the fact that we have these stipulations in our administration.

The CHAIRMAN: You mean the basis for this.

Mr. BENIDICKSON: Yes. We have these requests and the officials are limited in the comments they can make. The requests look reasonable, but I think we should hear from the minister his reasons if he feels he cannot accede to the two requests being made in respect of the pensions to widows. There is the accidental death item and also the matter of payments to widows for the first year after death in a manner similar to that paid to widows of those under the War Veterans Allowance Act.