

five years, his widow and children receive a pension. The reason for the existence of that clause in the Pension Act is this. A man who is pensioned from 80 to 100 per cent has a disability that practically incapacitates him. It may be that his arm or his leg has been taken off at the socket; or he may be in the advanced stage of tuberculosis, or have a serious disability of that description. The man is in some cases worse than dead, inasmuch as he is a source of care and trouble to his family. It was considered that a man with such a disability, coming back to his home, could do nothing to augment the family income, but must sit at home and depend on his pension, and that the state would be doing no more than simple justice to his family in providing by law that if such a man died within a certain period his wife and children should be pensioned as though he had died of the disability for which he was pensioned. As the law now stands, the period is five years. Let me repeat: if a man who is pensioned in any of the classes from 80 to 100 per cent dies within five years, of any disease whatever, his wife and family get a pension. The intention of the two clauses in this Bill which I am now discussing is to extend that period to ten years. The arguments which support a five-year period are equally strong in support of the ten-year period. The man with such a disability is of no use to his family and can do nothing for their support. He can make no provision for the future. He simply lives away his life in his own home. Therefore, it seems to me, if he dies after five years, but within ten years, his wife and children are in as much need of a pension as they were in the first, second, third, fourth or fifth year, for which the law now provides. Bear this in mind, that the children go off pension at the age of sixteen. I support these two clauses, and I ask that they be taken together.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: It might be pointed out that this deals with the case whether death was attributable to service or not. If death was not attributable to service, then a charge of this nature should not be imposed upon the country. The Committee summoned before them the Chairman of the Pension Board, and also the Deputy Minister of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment. It only remains to be said that if the elimination of this proposed clause results in a grievance whether on the part of many or of a few, the Government can remedy it at any time, and I am sure that if cases are presented to Parliament which

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show that the law operates with hardship, Parliament will be only too ready to improve the Act. What we are doing to-day is not done for all time. Probably for some time a Bill somewhat similar to this one will frequently come before us. It is only through long years of experience that we shall arrive at a satisfactory adjustment of all these matters, upon which so much difference of opinion is expressed to-day.

I move the adoption of the Committee's recommendation.

Section 6 was stricken out, as recommended.

On section 7—time from which payment of pension for disability shall commence:

The Hon. the CHAIRMAN: Shall section 7 pass as amended?

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: What is the amendment?

The Hon. the CHAIRMAN: The word "shall," in line 33, is struck out and the word "may" substituted.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: I agree to that.

The amendment was agreed to, and section 7 as amended was agreed to.

On section 8—annual allowance for maintenance of parents:

The Hon. the CHAIRMAN: Clause 8 is amended.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: What is the nature of this amendment?

Hon. Mr. PARDEE: The amendment is that the last four lines are stricken out.

The Hon. the CHAIRMAN: All the words after the word "condition":

Provided also that the said benefits shall not be withheld or discontinued if by reason of circumstances beyond his control the pensioner is unable to continue his contribution towards the maintenance of his parent or parents.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: That is, the second proviso is struck out.

The amendment was agreed to, and section 8 as amended was agreed to.

On section 9—conditions under which pensions shall be paid to widows:

The Hon. the CHAIRMAN: Clause 9 is struck out altogether.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: Honourable gentlemen, I am not prepared to argue for the whole of this clause, because I have grave doubt as to the working out of certain paragraphs; but I do desire to support clause i of paragraph b of subsection 1: