

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: All right, then.

The CHAIRMAN: I suggested to Mr. Quelch that if the proposed recommendation parallels the other—I just explained to him that because of our former resolutions I would have to rule that out of order. I was not sure, but when I was pressed to make a decision that was the position I took.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Mr. Chairman, I would move that a recommendation be made to consider the matter of the Imperial widows' eligibility.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I have a motion before me, moved by Mr. Cruickshank, in the following terms: I move that a recommendation be made to give consideration to the matter of Imperial widows' eligibility. I presume that Mr. Cruickshank means the eligibility of the Imperial widow under the War Veterans Allowance Act, and I assume that he is relating it to the widow of the Imperial veteran who was himself not entitled. Is there any further discussion on the amendment before I put the motion?

Mr. GILLIS: Is it in order or out of order? I would like to discuss it if you rule it in order.

Mr. GREEN: Mr. Chairman, if you are considering ruling that out of order, I would just—

The CHAIRMAN: I don't like suggesting—what I am doing is considering whether or not it is in order. There is a great difference between considering whether I am going to rule it out of order or in order, or whether I am just considering whether it is in order or not.

Mr. GREEN: Well, Mr. Chairman, before you rule it out of order, I would like to say something.

The CHAIRMAN: I think while I am looking at this motion I am going to let the deputy say a word or two about the considerations which have prevailed with the government; the reasons why no change has been made.

Mr. BURNS: Mr. Chairman, the Imperial veteran whose widow would be concerned by this, would be qualified under section 304 (b), that is; any former member of His Majesty's forces, or any of the forces of any of His Majesty's allies, or forces associated with His Majesty in war concluded on or before the 31st of August, 1941, who served during any such war and who has resided in Canada for a total period of at least 20 years. Now, as I understand it, the elements which are required for a man to qualify under this Act are (a), that he is a Canadian or was domiciled or resident in Canada, in a period which would entitle him to be considered a Canadian; and in this particular instance a period of 20 years was set and agreed to by the representatives of the Imperial veterans. Now, it is desired to see whether, in the case of a man, who, if he had lived for 20 years would have been eligible under this, but died, say, after 19 years and 6 months' residence, his widow ought to be considered a widow under the Act. I should like to know how it is proposed to effect that legislatively. Is it proposed to amend the definition of a widow?

Mr. GREEN: No, I think the general might strike out these words in lines 16 and 17, "and has resided in Canada for a total period of at least 20 years" and replace them with the words, "was domiciled in Canada prior to the 1st day of January, 1931". Then you would meet the whole difficulty and the widow would automatically qualify since the husband was domiciled in Canada prior to 1931.

Mr. BURNS: Mr. Green, that would qualify the veteran who had come to this country in 1930 and who had died two months afterwards; his widow would now be eligible?

Mr. GREEN: That is right.