

having done what I did, now that this Bill is before us for making right what in my opinion was an injustice, I am prepared to make amends by supporting the Bill as originally brought to this Chamber.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: While I am in accord with both of the amendments proposed by the Committee, on this point I propose to vote for the Bill as it originally stood. I am a great believer in the carrying out of contracts, and, as pointed out by both the honourable gentleman from Edmonton (Hon. Mr. Griesbach) and the honourable member for Regina (Hon. Mr. Laird), a contract was entered into the people of Canada and the soldiers that the dependents of the soldiers would be looked after. I shall vote for the Bill.

Hon. Mr. POPE: As one of those who did not go overseas owing to the age limit and some other conditions, I repeated very often, upon every platform upon which I stood in an endeavour to induce men to go overseas, that if the opportunity ever came to me when I could do anything for them or their dependents I would avail myself of that opportunity. I am going to do so to-day by supporting the Bill.

Hon. Mr. GIRROIR: Honourable gentleman, I want to make it clear what amount is involved in this proposition to restore conditions to what they were in 1919 \$32,000,000?

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: The arrears are \$450,000; there is \$100,000 for the first year, and \$100,000 is added each year afterwards, so that 10 years from now the payments will have been \$10,000,000; 20 years from now they will have been \$20,000,000; and by the 25th year, when the decline commences, we shall have paid with respect to this class a total sum of \$32,000,000.

Hon. Mr. GIRROIR: As I have to vote upon this question, I suppose I should give some reasons before I cast my vote in favour on the proposition embodied in this Bill, which is to restore conditions as they were under the Bill of 1919.

We had a proposal before us the other day to build branch lines of railway, involving an estimated expenditure running into \$100,000,000. No one could exactly foresee what amount would be spent; but anybody who knows anything of the cost of building a railway under present conditions, and the cost of equipping and running it, can figure out fairly well the enormous expenditure that is involved in such a proposition. There was not a single reason advanced in support of that pro-

position; there were no details given and nothing that would convince anyone of the necessity for it; yet the House of Commons, including the Minister of Finance, did not hesitate to pass the Bill and send it over to us. If, in the opinion of the Minister of Finance, a proposition of that magnitude could be put through without sending this country into bankruptcy, I do not see why we should hesitate for one moment to support a proposal to restore conditions as they were in 1919 to the men who served this country in a great emergency.

I cannot say anything that would strengthen the position of those who are arguing in favour of restoring those conditions, more than has been said by the honourable gentleman from Edmonton (Hon. Mr. Griesbach). It seems to me that he puts the case so very strongly that anything I can say would not add any strength to his case, but might weaken it.

I was not eligible for military service when the war was on; I did not raise any battalions; and I did not go overseas. Others went overseas and fought my battles, and I think the very least I can do is to endeavour to assist the dependents of those who took part in the war and fought to preserve to me the conditions as they exist in this country and throughout the Empire to-day. I heartily support this proposition, and I think every honourable member of this House will feel that it is his duty to do his utmost to place the dependents of the men who died from injuries received overseas, no matter what may have been the cause, in the very best condition that this country can afford.

There are votes sanctioned in the House of Commons, and have been during the present Session, that are not nearly as deserving as this, and for that reason I am heartily in accord with the honourable gentleman from Edmonton in his proposal to restore the Act of 1919.

Hon. Mr. TURGEON: Honourable gentlemen, I have not gone to war either, but I am responsible for hundreds in my riding who went at my request. My promise to them was that they would be well rewarded, and that their dependents would be looked after.

I was greatly interested in the explanation given by the honourable gentleman from Edmonton, whose career as a soldier is well known, not only in Canada but in other parts of the Empire, and I may say that it will be my pleasure to vote with him on this Bill and to ask the country and the Government,