

Supply—Pensions—Relief

department or not. I do believe it is a matter that should be looked into and handled perhaps more efficiently by the department than it is at the present time.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): What amounts have been expended in the various provinces under the vote?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: In the Quebec district, \$212,149; that takes in the province of Quebec; in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, \$43,344; in eastern Ontario, taking in Kingston and Ottawa districts, \$135,054; in central Ontario, taking in Toronto and Hamilton, \$638,241; in western Ontario, \$157,487; in Manitoba, \$278,183; in Saskatchewan, \$64,178; in Alberta, \$118,133; in British Columbia, \$247,524; in New Brunswick, \$18,272.

Mr. GEARY: Take, in the working out of this plan, an instance such as the minister gives where the municipality pays \$25 a month and the soldier gets \$15. The department makes that up to \$25 and in that case the municipality is relieved entirely of what otherwise would be a charge upon it of \$25 for the man. Under these circumstances I think the municipality should see that any incidental relief, like clothing, fuel and medical attention, should be given that person without any difficulty. But has the minister realized that in some municipalities the total allowance for an unemployed single man is \$15? The soldier is drawing \$15 and he is then in exactly the same position as the unemployed single man, but he is in this difficult position, that the very fact of his being a pensioner indicates that he is not as well able to take on casual jobs as the ordinary unemployed single man. The pension of \$15 may cover some difficulty of a leg or an arm; I know of one man who is practically stone deaf and cannot get casual labour. It occurs to me that perhaps the minister might consider whether that factor should not enter into the calculation to some extent. In the city of Toronto a \$15 pensioner is really at a disadvantage with the single unemployed man who draws \$15 from the municipality.

Mr. POWER: What is the total amount of pension the unmarried pensioner can draw?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: Fifteen dollars.

Mr. POWER: Is that the total all over Canada?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: The basic scale of the department for a single pensioner \$15; for the married pensioner without children \$25; for the pensioner with a wife and one

child \$30, with \$2.50 for each additional child. The municipality has a figure corresponding to each of these amounts.

Mr. POWER: What is the highest for a single man?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: The maximum with rates previously in effect was for the single man \$30; man and wife, \$45; man and wife and one child, \$57, and for the man with two or more children, \$67.

Mr. POWER: Sixty-seven dollars is the maximum paid anywhere in Canada. What about the man with a wife and five children? While the minister's officials are looking up the matter, will he explain how this thing works? As I understand it, from the total of \$67 there is deducted first the amount of pension which the man receives.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: Yes.

Mr. POWER: Suppose he is getting a \$10 pension; that is deducted from the \$67. Is there any deduction for any gainful employment which he may have?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: He would be allowed \$10 a month for casual employment.

Mr. POWER: Without deduction?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: Yes.

Mr. POWER: Suppose he earns \$20, is there any deduction of any kind or is he taken off relief altogether?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: There would be a deduction of the second \$10 off the increased amount.

Mr. POWER: What is the total amount he must earn so that he will not get any relief at all?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: If the total amount was \$67 and he was working and earned the difference between the pension and that, he would automatically go off relief.

Mr. POWER: There are two sides to this story. Is there any incentive for that man to work? In other words, would it pay a pensioner of the category mentioned by the minister simply to stay on relief or would it be better for him to get a job and do something?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: Unfortunately on the part not only of returned soldiers but of others, there is an inclination rather to stay on relief. That is human nature, and returned soldiers are no different from other people. Some of course would rather get out and fight against this inclination, but undoubtedly if a man saw a job drawing \$15 a

[Mr. Power.]