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consequently I say that his circumstances ought to be considered in awarding a pension in each individual case. For instance, they give a labouring man, who has no chance to work when he cannot use his arm at all, the same pension as they give perhaps to a man who has his left arm off, but who makes a living at the desk. What I want is to take the previous circumstances of each pensioner's life into account and find out what he requires in order to enable him to keep himself decently.

*By Mr. Cronyn:*

Q. Is that workable over a big country containing thousands of cases?—A. You would save enough in some cases to pay the others.

Q. There will be continuous dissatisfaction under that system.—A. I do not see why, when they can work it out in England. Suppose there is a case of hardship, and we will say that it is a labourer who can never learn to be a clerk, and this poor fellow is not getting enough to live on because of the settled scale they have for awarding pensions, if the Board has power to consider that man's needs, and so augment the pension he would have a chance to get back into civil life on some basis that he could get a living. The worst thing that could happen to this country would be to have a lot of returned soldiers who cannot get enough to eat, because just as soon as that is the case, there will be trouble. We are having hard times to get along now, and I think we ought to attempt to regulate all our actions with regard to pensions with some degree of mercy. Now, in relation to the Imperial pensions, I was in a restaurant the other day, I wrote to the Hon. Mr. McCurdy about it, and a poor fellow came in there with his face all distorted, all out of shape, he cannot talk plainly and his body all trembling. This man enlisted in Canada in the Strathcona Horse, he went to South Africa, and got a bullet that went through the abdomen and came out through the thigh; he sits usually down by the cabman's shelter, and begs what he can to live on. He came into the restaurant on Sparks Street to try and eat, and I watched him making the effort to eat with a spoon, but he could not get the food into his mouth at all. I wrote to Major Stockdale and asked him what pension this man was getting, and he told me that until six months ago he was in receipt of one shilling a week, and now he is getting two shillings. We took up a collection, and now have enough money to keep him for some time. This man is a Canadian, but the Imperial Government are responsible for the soldiers who went to South Africa. We have lots of women in this country whose husbands were reservists, and who went with the First Canadian Expeditionary Force, and their widows are not receiving pensions anything like the pensions that Canadian widows are receiving. Those women are bringing up their children in this country, and are useful citizens, and it is the opinion of the Canadian Great War Veterans Association that the Canadian Government ought to consider the question of taking steps to bring the Imperial Pension paid to these widows, and to men like the one to which I have just referred, up to an equality with the Canadian pension. These people are good citizens, some of them have lived a good many years in this country before going on service.

Hon. Mr. McCURDY: That question was referred to the Pension Board, I understand, and perhaps you will have something to say on that later, Mr. Archibald.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Do you limit your suggestion to the English reservists, or do you extend it to the reservists of other countries who are living in Canada?—A. We are not likely to be up against it in respect to the reservists of other countries, or the proportion will be very small, that have established homes in Canada for the reason that those who went over will probably be retained in their own country after the war till their country is rehabilitated, and probably will settle down there.

Q. There are a number of Italians, I understand, who went back to rejoin the colours. I just wanted to get your suggestion upon that point?—A. You will find that a great many of them will remain in their own country after the war.

[Mr. Norman Knight.]