

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Perhaps I had better start with what I am getting at. If I understood you correctly a man who has got a ceiling of 90 per cent we will say of a disability pension, if he is unemployable, is entitled to this allowance. Well, for instance if he was in the city—a blind man might be able to run a cigar store but in rural districts how could he do that? What would happen there?

The WITNESS: Well, of course, as you know we have been dealing with these cases of unemployability under the War Veterans Allowance Act for a very considerable time, and by and large the definition would be the same in the case of these pensioners as it is under the War Veterans Allowance Act. It would depend on the situation. Is there any work in the locality which the pensioner is capable of doing? There are many veterans who perhaps have an amputation, who if they were in the city could get employment in a number of light industries. On the other hand, if they are in parts of the country where there is no employment except on farms or in the woods, they are unemployable and so would be qualified.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: That was what I was getting at.

The WITNESS: Account has to be taken of the employment situation in the area in which the man is living.

The CHAIRMAN: In other words they will not say that because you live in a little village or on a farm and there is no work that you cannot qualify because you do not go to the city and take work. They will have to take account of regional opportunity the same as they do under the War Veterans Allowance Act.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Well what I am trying to get clear is if a man is classed as unemployable it would be said to him that he should move to Smithville and that he will be employed there.

Mr. BROOKS: Suppose a man finds it is impossible to get employment, he would be considered unemployable? That is he might be able to do some sort of work but he is in a locality where he cannot get any work, will he get any consideration from this?

The WITNESS: In the ordinary case unemployability will be determined by whether he can get any regular employment. He would probably be referred to the National Employment Service in the area and if they say there is nothing that he can do around there that would be pretty conclusive in the matter. Casual earnings of small amounts would not be taken into account—

The CHAIRMAN: May I interject, gentlemen, with respect to this proposal, that like all other legislation the success or failure of it will depend upon the administration of it. The department is at the present time working out regulations for the administration of this proposal. The basis, as General Burns has said, is the experience of the British which is the senior in this field. I have little doubt, and I am sure that most of you will have little doubt, that there will be bugs in the administration due to local conditions in Canada. I think we will have to accept or reject this thing and having accepted it we will have to work out the Canadian application in our own regulations. They are returnable and reviewable by the House, and we will have to make what suggestions we can to make the plan workable, and to watch it very closely while it is under administration for perhaps a year. I think that is the case, and any new proposals or suggestions you have pointing out pitfalls ahead will be welcomed and attention paid to them. Eventually we will get a workable Canadian administration.

Mr. BROOKS: Would this be considered an extension of the War Veterans Allowance Act?

The WITNESS: No, it is quite separate.

Mr. BROOKS: Well, the principle is the same?

The WITNESS: Except there is no means test.