

Under the provisions made here there is no such benefit, and it seems to me to be absolutely unfair, especially with reference to the United States, because there were special inducements to men in the United States to join the Canadian Expeditionary Force. With reference to dependents in the Old Country, or South Africa, or Australia, I do not so strongly emphasize this point. But I do not think that the committee should pass this schedule as it now stands, at least so far as pensioners who are now residing in the United States are concerned. The cost of living to them is as high as it is to us, and furthermore, we pay them in the Canadian dollar and do not compensate them for the loss in exchange. As regards the Old Country or any other part of the Empire where our own currency is at a premium the pensioner benefits, but in the United States she does not, and I think that this question of bonus should be carefully considered before being put into force.

Mr. POWER: I do not know whether I would be in order or not, but I will bring the matter to the attention of the Government and ask them at least to be charitable to the widowed mother. Subsection 8 provides that the pension to a parent or person in place of a parent shall not be reduced on account of the payment to such parent or person of municipal insurance on life of a deceased member of the forces, and I would ask the Prime Minister to exempt life insurance also. It would be unfair, in my opinion, to say that if a widowed mother received a certain amount of insurance on the life of her son her pension should be diminished on that account. If the Chairman thought I was in order, I would move to amend this section to read "municipal or any other insurance." I presume, however, that the same ruling would apply in this as in the other instance. If the widowed mother receives municipal insurance nothing is deducted from her pension on that account, and I would ask the Prime Minister to consider seriously whether life insurance should not be included in this provision. I do not think it would cost the country a great deal of money if we allowed a widowed mother to enjoy her pension irrespective of a few thousand dollars that she might have received on the death of her son.

Mr. McGIBBON (Muskoka): This difficulty might be overcome by raising the amount of income in subsection 7 from \$20 to \$30 or \$40 a month. A year ago I sug-

gested that it be placed at \$500 a year. Of course, the principle is absolutely sound that you should have some limit. In my opinion it would not be fair to give a pension to any one with an income of \$2,000 or \$3,000 a year. You must draw the line somewhere. At the same time, I think that we might increase this amount from \$20 to \$30 or \$40 a month; probably \$30 would be reasonable. I agree with the hon. member for Algoma (Mr. Nicholson) that it is very irritating to widowed mothers to have visitors prying into their private affairs, and this is a matter that has caused a great deal of quiet resentment among the widowed mothers of soldiers in this country. I think that in fixing this amount we should put a reasonable figure so as to do away with a great deal of the irritation that has been caused in the past. Twenty dollars is rather too low. I do not know that it would cause any harm to leave it as it is, but undoubtedly, if it were increased, there would be less cause for complaint.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I shall certainly take into consideration what has been said on this subject by the hon. gentlemen who have spoken. I see some force in the observation as to the feeling of irritation which might be created by too close or too frequent inquiries into the private affairs of persons who have lost near relatives in the war. But my hon. friends will observe that it will be impossible to change this provision without bringing down another resolution. I hope therefore they will be willing to accept my assurance that what they have said in the matter will not be overlooked.

Section agreed to and Bill reported.

On the motion of Hon. Mr. Calder that the Bill be read a third time:

Mr. McKENZIE: May I ask the minister in charge of this Bill if it is the intention to consolidate the Pension Act of last year and the measure we have just passed?

Mr. CALDER: I should think there would be a consolidation made for the convenience of everybody.

Mr. McKENZIE: And the consolidated Bill distributed as speedily as possible?

Mr. CALDER: Yes.

Motion agreed to and Bill read third time.

At Six o'clock the House took recess.