

been able to figure that out, and I have studied this question of percentage of disability perhaps as much as any individual man in this country, and I know that our assessment commissioners—whoever they may be I do not know—are wrong about that. They should get down to it and give the man a more generous assessment on the ratio of disability; there is no question about that. But we are not pressing that at the moment because—I will tell you candidly—we are willing to sacrifice that request, whether just or unjust, so that we may get this other matter. Examine into the method that the United States uses for the percentage of disability and assessment, examine into the method that France uses, take all the principal cases and you will see that they have some variation. Now, the fact of the matter is that you may ask those men from now until doomsday, and you would not travel very far for they will tell you that there is no set scale that you can arrive at and say that a man is 40 per cent or 45 per cent or 30 per cent disabled; you cannot do it. You have got to go to the man and study him and treat that man's percentage of disability in accordance with the situation that he is facing. Take the case of a man with a leg off, say below the knee; he is treated as 40 per cent disabled. I know men who have legs off below the knee who are working every day but who are actually much greater disabilities. I know one man in particular, a 40 per cent disabled man, who only last week was stumbling around a very much greater disability that week. I venture to say that this week he is much better. There is no dependability as to how a man is going to be from day to day or week to week; none at all. You cannot say that a man is 40 per cent disabled and cut him down to the lowest minimum award. What you need to do is to give a maximum award in all cases of that kind and have an interplay between the minimum and the maximum, giving the benefit to the man.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: Mr. Chairman, may I suggest that this is an informal meeting and that this is not the proper place to ask too many technical questions, or to go into the evidence. We will have an opportunity to go into that later. The purpose of this meeting was to afford the members of the Amputations Executive an opportunity of meeting the members of this Committee. I went to the convention this morning, and I may say that I came away from it with a feeling of pride and also a feeling of humility—pride, because I was given the privilege of wearing this badge, a privilege given probably for the first time to a man who had not been overseas, and humility, because I realized that I had done nothing to deserve it. The purpose of this meeting was not to discuss the question of rates. The suggestion was that the representatives of the Amputations Association should meet the members of the Committee privately in their rooms; but I knew the difficulty of that with a Committee sitting, with members in the House; and I realized that it was practically impossible for them to meet half of them in that way. So we suggested that this meeting be arranged, in which suggestion the Chairman cordially concurred. The purpose was not to discuss the questions at any length but rather to give them an opportunity of meeting the members of the Committee so that they would have some idea of the attitude of the Committee, so that they would know whether they were leaving their affairs in the hands of a sympathetic or an unsympathetic committee. I assure them that they are in the hands of a most sympathetic committee, and I am going to say this, that although I represent a constituency of farmers here who are passing through fairly hard times, there are a great many returned men who are paying taxes in this country as other men are, and I have heard from practically every organization in my part of the country, and I am expressing the views of the organization which I represent when I say now that for my part I am strongly in favour of making that pension and bonus permanent, and I intend to vote that way.