

## APPENDIX No. 2

discharge to the time of his making application for whatever position he is seeking. Provided the man has been in that centre, it is a question of taking the facts from the history of the man's overseas service, taking his disabilities, if any, and tying them up with his present condition as shown by his examination. As I have said, if there is any doubt, we have recourse to one of two things; we may send out to the unit, which is the common procedure, and have this man examined by a specialist along the lines required. For instance, a man with an eye, ear, nose or throat complaint would be examined by a specialist in that line. If the man was suffering from tuberculosis, he would be examined by a tuberculosis specialist. So far as a tuberculous man is concerned, the examination would not be superficial. It might involve an X-Ray examination and might involve putting the man in an institution for a period of eight or ten days for observation. We have gone that far. I may say that in all cases, to the best of our ability, we have endeavoured to find out the exact condition of the man and whether he is entitled to the provision which he seeks, and we give him if possible the benefit of the doubt. We have gone so far as to put a man in hospital for ten or fourteen days for observation, not only in tuberculous cases, but in nervous cases and heart cases. Many of these cases are hard to diagnose. The doctors find it very difficult sometimes to diagnose such cases, but we give them every possible facility. They have laboratories and examination branches at which they can go into the diagnosis of the cases to their full satisfaction. My own personal feeling in the matter is that to date we have certainly not been over-generous, because I feel that men for some time to come, or at least for some time after their discharge, have the right to very careful investigation into their cases, and the right to the benefit of any doubt that may exist, that is where there is a real doubt.

*By Mr. Sutherland:*

Q. How many men constitute a board for re-examination at those centres? Are they not sometimes examined by one doctor as they claim, in a very careless manner?

—A. I will not agree to the careless manner, but if a man is examined by one doctor, and if there is any doubt that the examination is not satisfactory we have him examined by a specialist. There have been cases where we have sent a man from one specialist to another and had him examined many times. These are, of course, difficult cases.

Q. A man may reside 15 or 20 miles from the point where one of those 450 doctors to whom you have referred reside. Will you accept the advice of a medical man who may be treating that man in another locality, and order a re-examination?

—A. In certain circumstances, yes, sir. I mean to say that in many cases it is very difficult for a civilian doctor to give us the information required because he does not know what the man is entitled to, because it does not follow that the disability from which the man is suffering is due to service and therefore entitled to consideration.

Q. I was dealing with the claim to re-examination.—A. In general that is the guide to our future action.

*By Mr. Arthurs:*

Q. Was there not a tentative agreement arrived to by the committee of a year ago that where a man's pension was in doubt, before it was reduced he should be examined before a board of doctors, permanent employees of your Department?—A. Yes, we are administering that. I am sorry that Dr. Arnold is not here, or Dr. Burgess. They could give you that information.

Q. I understood that there was such an agreement.—A. I am not quite sure of the terms. We have travelling boards in connection with the pension cases, and these travelling boards examine the men every six months.

Q. Are they active at present?—A. Oh yes, they have always been so.