

friend will recall that under the maxim that has already been referred to, if you build a house on a piece of property that house becomes immediately affixed to the freehold and passes with the freehold, and the only way you can deed it is by a deed of the land. I submit that under the circumstances the clause in question has made the most ample and careful provision for the unfortunate widow. May I call my hon. friend's attention to the last clause which I think has been somewhat overlooked?

But no claim shall be made by a pension authority for the recovery of such debt directly or indirectly out of any part of the pensioner's estate which passes by will or on an intestacy to any other pensioner or to any person who has, since the grant of such pension or for the last three years during which such pension has continued to be paid, regularly contributed to the support of the pensioner by the payment of money or otherwise to an extent which, having regard to the means of the person so having contributed, is considered by the pension authority to be reasonable.

I think that meets what my hon. friend has in mind. If the widow was not able to contribute any more, what she contributed will be considered by the pension authority to be reasonable. If, having regard to her means, the pension authority considers that what she has done has been reasonable in assisting the pensioner, then no claim will be made.

Mr. LADNER: Those last few words refer only to the extent. The operating portion is the one which specifically states:

To the support of the pensioner by the payment of money or otherwise—

And then it goes on to say:

—to an extent—

Then of course the pension authority calculates the extent; but if there has been no contribution, if the widow has been an invalid or for any other reason has made no contribution, the Solicitor General will agree with me that she would not have consideration; the home would be taken from her on behalf of the pension authority to pay the pension.

Mr. ELLIOTT: Can my hon. friend conceive of any one case where there would be no contribution either by money or otherwise by the deserving widow of a deceased person?

Mr. LADNER: I can conceive of the most deserving of all cases, the sick wife, the woman who perhaps with a large family has been an invalid for years.

Mr. ELLIOTT: Then she did the best she could.

Mr. LADNER: Certainly she did. Providence did not give her a constitution strong

enough to stand up to her ailments, and during, let us say the last five or ten years of her life, she finds herself an invalid contributing nothing in money or services or otherwise. Yet that most deserving of all cases is the very one which will suffer under this clause while others less deserving have the advantage of it.

Mr. GLEN: There are two different points of view, one with regard to the income of any two persons who might be living together. I think my hon. friend has omitted to look at the whole of the bill. If he will refer to section 19, he will see that power is given to the governor general in council to make regulations and among the regulations are these:

(e) The manner in which the income of a pensioner is to be determined for the purpose of this act, and in particular the mode of reckoning the income of either one or two spouses who live together.

Under paragraph (m) regulations can be made with regard to:

(m) The administration of a pensioner's property by a pension authority.

I have had some experience with the administration of old age pensions, because I happened to be the secretary of one of the committees that was in charge of the old age pension bill when it was first introduced in Britain, and I can remember quite well that all the discussion that has taken place here to-day and yesterday came up in Great Britain. The act as first drawn by the Imperial parliament was altered out of recognition almost after two or three years experience with its provisions, and I think the same thing is likely to happen here, because we shall find so many circumstances that will have to be provided for in the general act. The Solicitor General is perfectly right when he says that a general provision in the act giving power to the authorities to do certain things cannot take into account every exceptional circumstance that may arise, but we have that general provision backed up by the power that is given to make regulations, and we may assume that these regulations are going to take into account all the arguments that have been submitted here to-day and yesterday, and that they will be framed accordingly. But apart altogether from that, my experience has been that the committees and those in charge were always willing to give the very best possible view to a pensioner, and I think in common humanity no province will take away from the surviving widow of a pensioner the little piece of property which her husband had accumulated