

of his financial position, and unless he is in dire need he does not draw that war veteran's allowance. Why subject that man to the further humiliation of having to explain his financial situation? Why all this delay? It has to be referred back again to the board for the board to consider whether a man who was needy when he drew \$30 a month is still needy when he makes application for an extra \$10 a month. There is neither rhyme nor reason in that. It is piling not only inevitable delays but a financial burden on this country because, instead of cutting down the personnel which are now in the Department of Veterans Affairs, something which the late Minister of Veterans Affairs promised, the minister will have to keep on all the additional personnel in his department; and on very good authority I believe it will take at least three years for the whole office staff of the war veteran's allowances board to review all the cases they now have before them. Therefore I feel that from the point of view of efficiency, from the point of view of doing the right thing by the veteran, that \$10 increase should be made automatic, and that, without any further means test, the veteran who is now drawing his allowance should be entitled to the increase which would bring him up to \$40 a month.

It may be suggested that \$40 a month is a great deal of money; that it is only an allowance to help the veteran to live. But what are the conditions of this means test? How much is he allowed to earn? He may receive, by casual earnings as a single man, \$125 a year in addition to his \$30 a month. That is net casual earnings. Then, under "other income" he may earn a total of \$125, if he is a single man, or \$250 if he is married. Then there is another item, "unearned income", of \$25 for the single or the married man. That makes a total for the single man of \$275 per annum which he may earn if he qualifies under all the different restrictions there are for these different items. He may earn that total of \$275 in addition to the \$30 a month.

I suggest to the Minister of Veterans Affairs that not only should he consider making that meagre increase automatic, but that he should also consider making these exemptions more simple. It is very difficult for even an official of the department to draw the line between casual earnings, other income and unearned income. Why not lump them all together and accept a man, provided that he does not earn more than a certain amount? Leave it at \$275 a year if you like, and let him have that exemption, no matter whether it is by casual earnings, or other income or unearned

income. No man can tell the difference. I hope the minister will see his way to increase the amount of exemption, because we do not want to encourage even middle-aged men to rely entirely on their pensions or their allowances. Surely it is in the interests of the economy of the country that we should keep in employment and encourage men to earn all they can by useful employment, even though they are forty or fifty years of age.

I wish to refer to another group of veterans, namely, the veterans who were not domiciled in Canada when the war broke out, men who did not serve in the Canadian forces but in His Majesty's army, navy or air force of Great Britain, commonly referred to as imperials. After world war I, ex-soldiers of the imperial forces were encouraged to come to this country, with the result, I believe, that some 80,000 ex-imperials from the British army or the British navy or air force or from the Indian army came to this country, and they have resided here.

I know this question has been discussed before, but I suggest that there is new light being thrown on it by virtue of the fact that a few sessions ago we passed a Canadian Citizenship Act. Surely, if a man is a Canadian citizen; if he has lived in this country for twenty years or more, we can forget whether he wore the maple leaf or whether it was Britannia or some other regimental badge on his collar. These were the men who made it possible for the Canadian expeditionary force to fight at the second battle of Ypres, gaining immortal glory when they resisted the first gas attack; because these men who are living in this country were the veterans of Mons, Le Cateau and Ypres. They gained time by drawing the fiercest onslaughts of the enemy upon themselves. They gave Canada time to train her forces and put the Canadian expeditionary force into the field to win the crowning victories of the war, which many of these men who fought as old contemptibles were unable to see because of disabilities they had suffered.

These men have come here and raised families, and their sons and daughters in many cases served Canada nobly in this war. What is the situation of these men? Here you have a Canadian pensioner drawing 100 per cent pension, which until recently was \$75 a month, and now there is to be a \$10 increase, making it \$85.

These old contemptibles, these men who have lived in this country for a quarter of a century, serving as good Canadian citizens, had taken out their citizenship papers, and they received from the imperial government