

Canadian Forces Act

will bring a certain amount of relief, I am sorry the minister has not seen fit to go to the extent of removing these from succession duties. Will any rate of interest be charged on the amounts which are not paid?

Mr. Campney: I cannot give a categorical answer to that question, because it is settled from time to time in the Department of Finance. We do not have control over it.

Mr. Gillis: I agree with the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich that, while this is a step in the right direction, it does not go far enough. I agree that the charge of succession duties against the pensions of service personnel is something that should be reconsidered, particularly in respect of the capitalized value of the pension. Could the minister tell us the capitalized value of the pension of a sergeant who has been in the service for 20 years? Could he give us some idea of what the succession duties would amount to?

Mr. Campney: I am afraid there are too many imponderables involved to give a categorical answer. It would depend upon the life expectancy of the widow and of the children, the value of the estate over and above the pension and other differentials existing between people who might even be of the same rank, but have different rates of pay because of trade qualifications and so on.

Mr. Gillis: When the Department of National Defence agreed to this kind of assessment against a pensioner, it must have worked it out on some basis. Surely there is some actuarial basis for it. Could not the minister give an average case?

Mr. Campney: I could set up a typical case, have it worked out, and give my hon. friend the results—taking certain facts as basic. If he wishes, I would be glad to have that done and give it to him.

Mr. Gillis: Thank you, sir.

Mr. Pearkes: This regulation was brought in comparatively recently. It has not been in existence ever since the pensions scheme has been in vogue. There was a time, I believe, when pensions, to which personnel throughout their service had made contributions, were not charged succession duties; is that not correct?

Mr. Campney: If it is, I am not aware of it. However, I cannot say that it was not so in the past.

Mr. Pearkes: Perhaps the minister would look into it and satisfy himself as to why this was done.

Mr. Harkness: What is the purpose of subsection 2? Is it merely to ensure that the same service will not be counted twice for a pension under different parts of the act? If not, what is the purpose?

Mr. Campney: The hon. member's understanding is correct.

Mr. White (Hastings-Frontenac): When the minister refers to succession duties under subparagraph (b), would they apply to succession duties payable to a province in which such duties are collected?

Mr. Campney: Yes.

Clause agreed to.

On clause 4—

Mr. Harkness: I do not understand the meaning of the words in line 30, "other than the forces". The clause contains these words:—any continuous period of full-time service of six months or more in the naval, army or air forces of Her Majesty raised in Canada other than the forces—

And so on. What does this mean?

Mr. Campney: "Forces", under the interpretation section of the act, means regular forces.

Mr. Harkness: Then this refers to some sort of continuous service in the reserve forces?

Mr. Campney: That is so.

Clause agreed to.

On clause 5—*Widow's pension to be resumed.*

Mr. MacLean: Subsection (1a) provides that the pension of a widow who subsequently remarries shall be reinstated after the death of her second husband. What is the position if the second husband is in receipt of disability pension? The widow in those circumstances would receive pension after the death of her second husband, on account of his war service. Would this not mean that the pension receivable on account of her first husband would be reinstated, and in that event she would be receiving both pensions? That is how it would appear.

Mr. Campney: Under the circumstances outlined by the hon. member she might conceivably under this clause receive two pensions, one from disability, and the other the earned pension of her husband. This clause seeks merely to correct a situation where a widow has remarried and her second husband has died. She could not as the act stands resume her service pension under such circumstances. This clause would make it possible for her to do so.