

far as I am concerned personally—of the very effective regulation of traffic by, I presume, the Department of Public Works and the Mounted Police. I think it must have been very gratifying to honourable members of this House, as well as to honourable members of the other Chamber and to the public, that, after some delay, this work was taken in hand with resolution, and most effective provision was made for the protection of people who are moving about Parliament Hill. For my part I want to congratulate those concerned, and particularly the officers of the Mounted Police, who have been doing this service in a most effective and gentlemanly way, as they always do.

One thing remains now, I think, namely, that the city of Ottawa should take up the question of traffic regulation on Wellington street. I hope that effective means will be put into operation by the authorities of the city of Ottawa to control the traffic on Wellington street, which is at times very perilous indeed for pedestrians.

PENSION BILL

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

Hon. J. D. TAYLOR: I rise to a question of privilege arising out of the debates in this House yesterday. During the debate on the Pension Bill two honourable gentlemen thought it proper to question a statement of fact that I made as to the insufficiency of the law at present to protect appeals which soldiers are naturally entitled to make. I said at the time that I had the documents supporting my position, but that they were in the hands of a member of the other House. I have the documents now. I have on one page a review of a case addressed to the Hon. J. H. King, Minister of Soldier's Civil Re-establishment, recourse being had to him only after this unfortunate man had run the gamut of all the appeal boards, medical units, and all other organizations he could find. He finally came to the head of the Department, and asked him for redress. Dr. King, I may say, is usually sympathetic with those cases, so that the man was not using any poor judgment in going to the Minister; and this is the reply he got:

Ottawa, November 25, 1926.

Honourable J. H. King, M.D. M.P.,
Minister of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment,
Ottawa, Canada.

No. 216720 Pte. Wm. A. Stevenson.

Dear Dr. King:

With reference to the marginally named man, the following is a review of his case as set forth by the Chief Medical Adviser:

Hon. Mr. TANNER.

"This man's arm was fractured in 1897, twenty years before he enlisted, and since that time the joint has been weak and stiff.

"The Commissioners have very carefully considered the case and are of opinion that the arm condition was present prior to enlistment and was not aggravated during military service.

"The man appeared at Head Office and was examined by several of the Medical staff. He stated at that time that his condition was aggravated by his being blown up by a shell and rendered unconscious and that he was evacuated from the lines four hours after his explosion. A thorough search of the Casualty List and Part II Daily Orders of the First C.M.R. Bn., in which he states he was wounded, fails to show any mention of a casualty having occurred to this man. If he was sent out of the lines as a casualty it would be mentioned in Part II Daily Orders.

"Mr. Stevenson appealed to the Federal Appeal Board and its decision was that the arm condition pre-existed enlistment and was aggravated on service. The Pension Board then pensioned him for aggravation of the arm condition (as per the ruling of the Federal Appeal Board) at one-quarter of his entire assessment in respect of the arm.

"This is a purely arbitrary award and was made in accordance with the judgment of the Federal Appeal Board. The total disability from the arm is estimated at twenty per cent and he was awarded five per cent pension retroactive to discharge. At the present time he is not totally disabled from his arm condition. If he had lost his hand he would be entitled to only sixty per cent pension and if he had lost the arm at the shoulder he could receive an eighty per cent pension only according to the regulations. The Board of Pension Commissioners was of the opinion that this man's arm was in exactly the same condition as when he joined the army but on the judgment of the Federal Appeal Board one-quarter of the total disability was awarded for aggravation."

It would appear that this man injured his arm before enlistment, and that he is entitled to an aggravation only of the condition. This he has received back to the time of his discharge. Your enclosures are returned herewith.

Hon. Mr. COPP: Who signs that?

Hon. Mr. TAYLOR: J. F. Ellis, Commissioner. The enclosures include a photograph showing the man's condition. I regret that the photograph cannot be placed on Hansard, but I have it here. It shows one arm capable of full extension, but the other arm permanently bent. I know of my own knowledge that this is not in any sense a faked photograph, because it was taken under the direction of a medical officer of a Unit, who served through France and who knows all about soldiers their treatment and their weaknesses. He assured me that the arm could not be straightened any more than as shown in this photograph, and that he had personally taken the matter up with the local authorities and with Dr. King.