

*By Mr. Power:*

Q. That is up to 4 per cent?—A. 4 per cent.

Q. From 5 to 9 per cent what happens?—A. He gets a pension of \$2.50 a month plus 20 per cent bonus. per cent, for instance, is considered negligible and gets no gratuity.

*By Mr. Nesbitt:*

Q. Have you many complaints that the dependents of soldiers' mothers and fathers have not sufficient pension?—A. The law was changed in January a year ago by which we had to assess the pensions, and we have had a great number of complaints about the pensions being reduced. Under the old law, if a parent was dependent to the extent of \$1, that is if it was \$1 under the maintenance grant, that parent received a full pension. Under the new law they will be reduced if they have property or money and so on. There are very many complaints from those people. They are the largest number of complaints we receive. Where pensions are awarded in the first instance, under the new Act, after we have a full report, if we give \$50 in view of income and so on, we receive no complaint. The complaint is of the reduction, not necessarily that the pension is not enough.

*By Mr. McCurdy:*

Q. What is the proportion of those cases where the pensions have been reduced under the circumstances complained of?—A. I am not in a position to say; I can only judge from those pending for review and decision. If I were to make a shot at it, I would say more than fifty per cent.

Q. Would it be near 100 per cent?—A. No.

*By Mr. Cooper:*

Q. Is there a general complaint throughout the country that the pension for widows and children is inadequate, or is there strong complaint from any specific district?—A. I have been out West twice now, and it was brought to my attention in Winnipeg by the lady who, I think is President of the Next of Kin Association, a very well informed lady. She came to see me on each occasion, and on the last occasion she said that the widow with children, and so on, was not so badly off now except in the case of illness, but that the doctors' accounts and medicine bills put her behind. She said they would not be so badly off if these were taken care of.

Q. Speaking from your knowledge, the pension given to widows and children is adequate, but it does not meet any circumstances out of the ordinary that might arise?—A. Emergency. I am not prepared to express an opinion on that. I can only tell you what falls under my notice. I have not received complaints.

Q. Do you receive constant complaints?—A. Yes, I have known cases where the widow with children has got behind in the most pitiable condition sometimes.

Q. More in the West than in the East?—A. Yes.

Q. Can you give a reason for that?—A. I am not speaking of the widows running behind as a class; I am speaking of specific instances, and they were very pitiful, just because of a combination of untoward circumstances.

*By Mr. Clark:*

Q. Were they from the large cities or from the smaller cities?—A. From the cities; not a large number. But these specific instances that came before me were very distressing. I might cite one. It was a woman with four children, very quiet, respectable woman. She came to see me if we could do something to augment her pension. She was receiving the full pension of a widow. I had an interview with her in the Western city, and she said, "Something has got to be done about it." She then went out. I had said that I would let her know. I found afterwards that when she left she sold the only table she had in the house. She was not spending the money or drink; it was not on

[Col. Thompson].