

*Supply—Pensions and National Health*

Mr. RHODES: Oh, that will depend entirely on the market. The last one was at three per cent.

Section agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

## SUPPLY

## PENSIONS AND NATIONAL HEALTH

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Morand in the chair.

Care of patients and medical examination respecting pensions; hospital allowances (compensation), \$3,200,000.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): There is no difference at all in the amount of the vote this year?

Hon. D. M. SUTHERLAND (Minister of Pensions and National Health): No, it is the same as last year.

Item agreed to.

Salaries—

Departmental staff, \$2,375,000.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Does this include the departmental salaries at the various institutions throughout Canada?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: Yes, it includes all the administrative salaries, but not the doctors on schedule of fees.

Item agreed to.

Unemployment relief, \$2,100,000.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Is the scale of unemployment relief uniform in all the provinces?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: No. The general plan that is adopted is to bring the amount up to the scale of relief in the municipality for the smaller pensioners who are eligible under this vote.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): So that because of the lack of uniformity in the scale of relief in the different municipalities there is a lack of uniformity in the relief granted to pensioners under this vote?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: That is it.

Mr. SPENCER: Are the unemployed ex-soldiers always treated separately from the general unemployed?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: The pensioners are.

Mr. COOTE: Would the minister give us some idea of the variations which exist in the amount of unemployment relief paid to ex-soldiers in various cities or in different parts

[Mr. Euler.]

of Canada? This is a subject on which there is a great deal of complaint, and I think a statement from the minister would be useful.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: It depends upon the scale the municipality is paying. If, for instance, a married pensioner is drawing a pension of \$15 and the municipal scale of relief for a married man who is not a pensioner is \$25, his relief would be brought up to \$25. Another pensioner in another city might be drawing a pension of \$22 and the city scale of relief be \$27. Here again the pension would be brought up to the amount the city was paying.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): What are the qualifications for entitlement to relief under this vote?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: A man has to be a pensioner or else have received a final payment as distinct from a gratuity, instead of one of the smaller pensions.

Mr. HANSON (Skeena): Is there any difference as regards municipalities within the province in the scale of relief?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: There are variations. There might be a different scale of relief in Prince Rupert, for instance, from the scale in Victoria or Vancouver.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Is it necessary to have any specific percentage of pension to qualify under this vote?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: No.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): It is regardless of any specific percentage?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: Yes.

Mr. POWER: Did the vote of \$2,100,000 last year cover all expenditures?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: Yes, it is estimated that it will cover the expenditures for the remainder of the year.

Mr. POWER: Is medical treatment given to pensioners under this vote?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: Yes, treatment is given to the pensioner, but not to his family.

Mr. POWER: No medical treatment for his family?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: That is the general rule, but if there is an emergency case that our men see, of course it would be handled.

Mr. POWER: Is clothing given to members of the pensioner's family?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: Clothing is given in some cases where there is a very urgent need.