

overseas there should be no distinction between what happens to him on leave and what happens to him on duty, and the main reason for that is that we are conducting this war on a voluntary basis. We are not conscripting anybody to go overseas, and I am very glad that we are not. I do not need to go into that. We are taking everybody purely on a voluntary basis. The whole success of our war effort depends upon the confidence felt by the public of Canada, as a result of which from time to time governments may get a spontaneous response to action, no matter of how drastic a nature, that they may find necessary as circumstances arise. Therefore, we must make certain that at no time in the mind of any member of a family, where a member of that family enlisted for active service overseas, will any discontent arise or any feeling that will be other than one of confidence. Therefore I am saying nothing further at the moment. I am simply advising you, Mr. Chairman, and through you, the minister and the commission, that I am strongly in favour of the pure insurance principle so far as dealing with the man who has actually enlisted for services overseas is concerned.

*By Mr. Macdonald (Brantford):*

Q. May I just ask a question in order to clear up this section. Under subsection (f) it is provided:—

no pension shall be paid for disability or death incurred by a member of the forces during leave of absence from military service unless his disability or death was attributable to his military service;

Does that mean that if a man is in England, is on leave and is killed, there is no pension?—A. If I may, I am going to ask the committee if they would be good enough to suggest that that section be deleted and the old one returned.

*By Mr. Turgeon:*

Q. Which section is that?—A. The next section we are coming to.

MR. MACDONALD (*Brantford*): That is something, anyway.

The WITNESS: Because, if I may explain, there was no intention to doing anything like that. There was a certain class of matter that was difficult to deal with, and that was an attempt to cover it. But that situation has been remedied in other ways since this was drafted, and, if the committee would look favourably upon it, I would ask that the old section be returned.

*By Mr. Macdonald (Brantford):*

Q. Subsection (e) states:—

When a member of the forces, who has seen service during the great war, or who has seen service in a theatre of actual war as herein defined, is, upon retirement or discharge from war service, passed directly to the Department of Pensions and National Health for treatment, a pension shall be paid to or in respect of him for disability or death during such treatment.

My question is this: Supposing a man—and I have given a concrete instance of the sergeant—is injured in an automobile accident when he is returning from leave to his camp. Supposing after he is injured he is disabled for some time and is discharged or retired and he is passed to the Department of Pensions and National Health for treatment, and then dies. Would his widow receive a pension?—A. If he is passed to the Department of Pensions and National Health in accordance with the terms of this subsection.

Q. I quoted the terms.—A. Passed direct.