

*By Mr. Ross:*

Q. What is the principle followed in other countries? Take France and Britain, in regard to these medical boards, are they examined regularly?—A. I could not tell you, I would not like to risk telling you what principle is followed.

Q. Is it similar to ours?—A. I think it is partly similar, and partly not, but I would not risk telling you about it.

*By Mr. Nickle:*

Q. Under our system the pension is determined without reference to a man's previous occupation or earning capacity, and only in respect to his physical ability?—A. Yes, that is right, his physical fitness for employment in the general labour market. There is no doubt about it that the estimation of disability in accordance with capacity to do work is a cause of a great deal of discrimination between one class of persons and another class. At the same time there is a very large number of persons enlisted, who come within the caption of labour, although there are also many clerks and so on.

*By Mr. Ross:*

Q. In the case of a man who is unfitted to follow his usual occupation in his present condition, that man is taught some other vocation; he is fitted for something else?—A. Yes. Up till the time our Board was brought under the Civil Service Regulations, we made it a rule to employ returned soldiers only. That was the rule for a year and a half, except in very special cases, where we could not get returned soldiers to do the particular work that was required. Since the Commission was appointed we have employed 93 per cent of returned soldiers; we have a carpenter on the staff, he has, I think, a stiff leg and could not go back to his carpenter's bench, but he makes a very satisfactory book-keeper. I do not know whether he was given vocational training or not. He could have taken it in order to fit himself for a position.

*By Mr. Nickle:*

Q. Section 19 of Order in Council 1334 reads: "That no pension be paid when disability or death was occasioned by the negligence of the member of the Canadian expeditionary Force, to any person claiming, or on whose behalf a pension is claimed, unless the Commission otherwise consents." The amended regulation of last October reads: "No pension or allowance shall be paid to a member of the forces or any person dependent upon him when the disability or death in respect of which the claim is made was occasioned by the intemperance or improper conduct of such member, unless the Commission otherwise consents." What was the object of "intemperance or improper conduct" being inserted in the place of negligence?—A. The labour delegates said they did not like the word "negligence," in that Order in Council, and said they much preferred "intemperance or improper conduct," as that was what their rule called for. They did not see why the pension regulations should not be the same. We said it did not make any difference, that improper conduct or intemperance means more or less negligence, and we put those words in.

Q. It makes no difference in policy?—A. None at all.

Q. What is the policy of the commissioners at the present time with reference to injury resulting from a man's own actions?—A. The policy of the Board at the present time is to refuse pensions where disability is the result of disease brought on by a man's negligence or improper conduct. We have been refusing pensions frequently, or practically all the time, in those cases where disability was caused by a man's own action. In a few cases where we have considered there was aggravation caused by service, we have given perhaps 40 per cent pension. There was the case of a man in Toronto to whom we gave a pension at first because it was considered that his disease had been hastened by one year. We gave him a full-disability pension for one year in consideration of that fact. When the year ended there were so many complaints about cutting it off that we gave him a 40 per cent pension.

[Mr. Kenneth Archibald.]