

The CHAIRMAN: I think so, yes; in May, I think.

Mr. GREEN: In effect the purpose was to cover the Imperials who came here before 1931, but instead of covering them by simply saying in the Act, any Imperial domiciled here before the 1st of January, 1931 would be eligible, the legislation went at it the other way and said, any Imperial is eligible who has been here for 20 years before he makes his application. Now, that was a completely new test, a new standard put into the Act.

The CHAIRMAN: It is taken, Mr. Green, as you know, from the Old Age Assistance Act, and the Old Age Security Act. This is welfare legislation we are discussing and it is exactly a parallel situation to the restrictions imposed on Canadian residents in both the Old Age Assistance Act and the Old Age Security Act.

Mr. GREEN: That may be, but I think this is one place where we should get away from that. I do not see why we should keep putting the veteran on the same basis as old age assistance.

The CHAIRMAN: It is not the veteran, it is the veteran's widow we are talking about.

Mr. GREEN: Or the veteran's widow.

Mr. LENNARD: In order to be eligible for the old age assistance they have to be here 20 years.

Mr. GREEN: That has not been used before, and I do not see why we should do it now. I am quite sure that we have never used as a yardstick any old age assistance measure; and certainly I think that it was really the intention of the veterans affairs committees down through the years that the test should be whether or not the old Imperial got here before 1931.

The CHAIRMAN: That was never mentioned. It was whether or not they had been resident 20 years, not less than 20 years. He might have only resigned from the service in 1921—he could not have been here before 1921 because he was in action—I mean before 1931.

Mr. GREEN: But the intention was to extend the benefit to the important groups of veterans who came here in the 1920s. That is what he had in mind.

The CHAIRMAN: They were the only ones who had been here for 20 years, that is what they asked for.

Mr. GREEN: And I think, if the definition here on page 12 were changed to read, "domiciled in Canada on or before the 1st of January 1931", instead of reading, "has resided in Canada for a total period of at least 20 years", that you would resolve all these difficulties of the widows of veterans who were domiciled here in 1930. They would be covered.

The CHAIRMAN: To the prejudice of the Canadian widow who had lived here all her life and who is not entitled under the Act because her husband is not entitled.

Mr. GREEN: Well, the Imperial veteran has been given the war veterans allowance on the basis of his service in a theatre of war; you cannot fairly compare his widow with the widow of a veteran who did not see service in a theatre of war.

The CHAIRMAN: Are you seriously suggesting, Mr. Green, that we should give a benefit to the widow of the Imperial who himself was not entitled under the Act which the law denies to the widow of Canadians who are not entitled because of the reasons I stated a moment ago? That is what it is.

Mr. GREEN: Well, if the qualification for the Imperial veteran were made, domiciled in Canada before 1931, then the Imperial veteran would be covered, and the widows would be covered. That is what I am suggesting.