

TUESDAY, April 1, 1930.

The Special Committee on Pensions and Returned Soldiers' Problems met at 11 o'clock a.m., the Chairman, Mr. Power, presiding.

*Members present:* Messrs. Adshead, Arthurs, Black (*Yukon*), Fiset (Sir Eugene), Gershaw, Hepburn, Ilsley, McGibbon, McIntosh, MacLaren, McPherson, McLean (*Melfort*), Manion, Power, Ross (*Kingston City*), Sanderson, Speakman, and Thorson—18.

*Honourable Senators present:* Messrs. Black, Buchanan, Gillis, Graham, Griesbach, Laird, Lewis, Macdonnell, MacArthur, White (*Pembroke*), and others.

*In attendance:* Commissioners of the Pensions Board of Canada, members of the Federal Appeal Board, officers of the Dominion Executive Council of the Canadian Legion, B.E.S.L., representatives of Provincial Commands of the Canadian Legion, and many others.

The Committee having been called to order, it was moved by Sir Eugene Fiset, and seconded by the Honourable Mr. Manion, that the Committee express their pleasure by a vote of thanks to the Honourable Mr. Speaker of the Senate and Senators for their kindness in having graciously granted the Committee leave to hold its meetings in the Senate Committee Room 368. Motion carried.

The Chairman, by leave of the Committee, submitted a memorandum on Pension Legislation which he fully explained. Copies of the said memorandum were distributed. See memorandum and remarks in Minutes of Evidence.

The Chairman at this stage of the proceedings having to retire, Mr. McPherson, the vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

Mr. F. L. Barrow, Adjustment Officer of the Dominion Executive Council, Canadian Legion, was called to give evidence upon proposed amendments to Sections 34, 37 and 12 of the Pension Act. The said proposed amendments and explanatory notes are as follows: See also Minutes of Evidence.

*Section 34:*

That Section 34 of The Pension Act be amended by the addition of a further subsection after subsection (3):—

When an application for pension is made by or on behalf of a brother or sister who was not wholly or to a substantial extent maintained by a member of the forces at the time of his death but has subsequently fallen into a dependent condition, such application may be granted if the applicant is incapacitated by physical or mental infirmity from earning a livelihood and unless the Commission is of opinion that the applicant would not have been wholly or to a substantial extent maintained by such member of the forces if he had not died.

*Explanatory Note:*

This recommendation proposes to extend prospective dependency now provided for parents to a brother or sister. Very few cases are known but these are of a particularly distressing nature.

*Section 37:*

That paragraph (a) of Section 37 of The Pension Act be amended as follows:—

After the words: "to a parent" insert "or a brother or a sister".

*Explanatory Note:*

This recommendation is consequent upon the previous proposal.