

*Supply—Veterans Affairs*

which encouraged him. Mr. Mackenzie was always quick and generous in his tribute to the man who was not only the chosen instrument in the initiation of administration but also a wise and valued counsellor on matters of policy.

I might go on endlessly, Mr. Chairman, illustrating the qualities and character of Walter Woods, this great public servant. I will not, for his story is written in the hearts of men. This session will be his last in his post as deputy minister of veterans affairs. It is for that reason that I have desired to pay him some tribute while he is here among us. It will be the wish of all of us that as he goes to take his leisure he will preserve permanently for us and for posterity something of the store of wisdom he has acquired. For inspiration, for encouragement, for high example of selfless devotion in a great cause, for good advice and for some discipline, I desire to tender my personal thanks publicly.

**Mr. McIvor:** In the last few years I have had a good deal to do with the pensions board and the Department of Veterans Affairs. I must say that I never wrote a letter or made a request to which I did not get a prompt reply and reasonable answer from Walter Woods. I should like to give the example of one man who was receiving \$9 a month as a pension consequent upon his service in the first world war. He jollied me along and said, "I hope you will look after the veterans better this time than you did last time". I said, "What is the matter with you?" I got his army number, and his pension was raised to \$60, then to \$80 and now he is getting \$100 a month, because it was a case where the doctors perhaps did not agree. I should like to say that I think the family doctor should be given far more consideration than he is. These doctors know the pensioners. I had one case where a man died with shrapnel in his liver. The other doctors disagreed and thought he was foolish. The post mortem showed, however, that the shrapnel was there. I hope to have this man's widow taken care of. I should like to pay my tribute to the minister and to his predecessor. I heard the late Right Hon. Ian Mackenzie stand up in the house and say that if there was any man who knew of a pensions advocate who was not giving the pensioner the benefit of the doubt he wanted to know about it. That attitude was a splendid influence and help. The present minister is doing a great job, and we should back him up. I should like to pay my tribute to the chairman of the pension board and to the others who have given us such outstanding service. I could give a long list of cases where men have benefited.

**Mr. Green:** Mr. Chairman, knowing Mr. Walter Woods very well I feel quite confident that these are very embarrassing moments for him. I hesitate to add to his embarrassment. Down through the years it has been the privilege of those of us who have served on veterans affairs committees to learn of the wonderful work done by Walter Woods. I think Canada is fortunate in having a civil service that cannot be excelled in any other country of the world. In that service I do not believe there has been a finer civil servant than Walter Woods. He has been a great friend of the veteran, and I think a great friend of the Canadian people. The way in which he has approached the problems of veterans has shown him to be one of the biggest men of our generation. I am very happy to be able to pay this slight tribute to him today. It is too bad for Canada that the time has come when he has to retire. I am sure that all of us hope he will live for many years to enjoy the retirement he has earned so well.

**Mr. Herridge:** On behalf of this group, and particularly the members of this group who are veterans and who have had a long association with Dr. Woods, I want to express our support of the statements of the previous speakers and our admiration for the long period of service Dr. Woods has rendered to Canadian veterans and their dependents. I am sure Dr. Woods will be long remembered by thousands of veterans and their dependents in Canada because of the things he has done for them. Whether it was as deputy minister of veterans affairs, whether he was attending a committee to give evidence, whether he was answering questions, or whether one met him on the street or at a veterans' convention, it was obvious that his first consideration was to do the best he could for the man who served his country.

In concluding my brief remarks I believe I would be expressing the sentiments of the great majority of members of the House of Commons if I were to say, in the words of that grand old poet, Moore:

When Time, who steals our years away,  
Shall steal our pleasures too,  
The memory of the past will stay,  
And half our joys renew.

**Mr. Quelch:** Hon. members of this group would like to associate themselves, too, with the kind remarks made concerning Dr. Woods, and the very fine work he has done on behalf of the veterans of Canada. In all my contacts with him in the last fourteen years I have always found him most anxious to do everything within his power in the interests of the veteran. This was specially true during those years when he was chairman of the war veterans allowance board, and when he earned