

to about \$4.50 per person per month, or about 5 cents per meal. With food prices going up I think that is altogether too little. I was wondering if the government had considered restoring the cut that was made some two or three years ago.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: The grant depends entirely on the municipality. They know the cost of living in their own district, and when they set a level we conform to it. We rely on the judgment of the people who are acquainted with local conditions.

Mr. MacINNIS: Then will the minister take under consideration the payment of the allowance in cash?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: In my judgment it works out better according to the present plan. I have not heard any particular complaints about it; I think everyone is fairly well satisfied.

Mr. MacINNIS: Evidently these people are not satisfied.

Mr. MULOCK: Has the minister the amounts paid for unemployment relief in the last four years, and are they less than they were four years ago?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: The figures are as follows:

1929-30..	\$ 517,947
1930-31..	907,010
1931-32..	2,082,052
1932-33..	1,978,284
1933-34..	1,912,563

Mr. MULOCK: Has the minister the number of people benefiting in each of those years?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: Yes. The figures are:

1925-26..	3,121
1926-27..	4,079
1927-28..	4,182
1928-29..	4,647
1929-30..	5,548
1930-31..	8,811
1931-32..	12,303
1932-33..	14,368
1933-34..	12,735

Mr. MULOCK: Was there a change in rate a few years ago?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: The rate has been changed gradually. As the municipalities changed their rates, for various reasons, then our rates would change.

Mr. MULOCK: Has the rate been increased or lowered?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: As a rule it has been increased.

Mr. MacLEAN: There is another class of returned man who receives no benefit under this form of relief. I refer to the man who suffers from severe disabilities, whose case has been heard and turned down by the pensions authorities but who is not given any relief. In Prince Edward Island the matter of relief is handled by the provincial government, and the amount allowed is very small. The greatest amount paid is \$5 per person, and at the present time we have many cases of extreme need among our returned men. I know the minister will reply that because those men are not receiving a pension they cannot come under the scheme, and cannot obtain an order for groceries or supplies as could a pensioner. Has special consideration been given to that class of men? They suffer from disability, they are not able to earn their living, and employment is very scarce. Yet they cannot get relief under any of the schemes, and they are suffering a hardship which the department of pensions would do well to consider. I know the minister will reply that before he could do anything the act would have to be changed. In many cases those men are suffering actual disability but unfortunately they cannot link up their disability with overseas service, and for that reason are turned down. They receive no assistance from the government despite the fact that they gave of their best in the world war.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: We have given a good deal of consideration to those men, and I have every sympathy with the class the hon. member has mentioned. No matter what our law may be there will always be certain cases on the border line. It is impossible under this type of relief to have any other basis of entitlement. The municipality should assist where the men are not getting pensions.

Mr. SANDERSON: A few moments ago the minister said that the department did not pay out any cash in connection with the relief fund, but that they issued vouchers. Who issues the vouchers?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: In a Stratford or Woodstock case it would be a relief officer from London.

Mr. SANDERSON: An officer in London would issue the vouchers for St. Marys and surrounding country?

Mr. SUTHERLAND: Yes.

Mr. SANDERSON: On whose authority would he issue them?