

to create difficulties. I remind the government that a similar situation in connection with another piece of legislation developed back in 1943. In that year the government increased the amount of the old age pension by \$60, but at the same time it reduced by the sum of \$60 the amount of other income which the old age pensioner could earn. Some of us pointed out at the time that this was an anomalous situation which should not be allowed to continue, and it was only a matter of months until the government found that they had to restore the \$125 figure which stood in the legislation at that time. I have the feeling that the government will again come to the realization that they should not have contracted this amount of other income which the pensioner may have.

I also strongly support the suggestion, which has been made a good many times from the floor of this house, that the imperial soldier should be included under this legislation. I also urge continued consideration—and I hope it will get somewhere—of this matter of England and world war I. England is not yet considered in this bill to have been a theatre of war. I need not repeat examples of the anomalous situation that this has produced, but I should like to say one word in this connection on behalf of the widows of non-pensioned veterans who are covered under this same legislation. It is tough on the old soldier himself to be in the position referred to by the hon. member for Nanaimo, when he served in England during world war I and was prepared to go to the continent but did not get there, to find that he does not qualify for the burnt-out pension. But it seems even tougher on the widow of a non-pensioned veteran who has passed on, to discover that she is denied this small widows' allowance because her husband—although he served and was prepared to serve anywhere—did not get to the continent during world war I. I would say there is fairly general disappointment that these changes were not made.

Speaking for myself and knowing something of the attitude of other hon. members and of people outside the house, I think I should say there is appreciation of the attitude which the Minister of Veterans Affairs has taken toward the work of his department and also appreciation of the attitude he has shown toward the desires of the members of the committee. In fact this has been a highly significant session of parliament in that regard. I cannot recall another occasion when so many changes in legislation have been made in committee as have been made this time. It is because the minister has paid attention and given consideration to the wishes of the

members of the committee that here today we are voicing these sentiments again. We hope that he will treat these matters as unfinished business, that he will continue to give them earnest and sympathetic consideration, and that it will not be long until we shall have a further amendment of this act providing \$50 a month as the basic burnt-out pension; restoring the amount of other income that can be earned to the figure at which it stood before; bringing in the imperials, and treating England as a theatre of war in world war I. If this can be done, it will mean a great deal to the burnt-out pensioners covered by this act and also to the widows of non-pensioned veterans.

Mr. MacNICOL: All those who were present on Saturday last at the opening of Sunnybrook hospital in the city of Toronto, and who later in the day had the pleasure of attending the dinner in the Royal York hotel, were pleased at the great applause given to the minister when his name was called and he was asked to stand up on each occasion. It showed the appreciation of the soldier city of Toronto for what the minister has been trying to do and for what he has done. I myself was highly pleased with the great reception that the minister received there; because when Toronto is satisfied it gives a good reception.

I want to add just a few words to what has already been said. I agree with all that was said by the hon. member for Wentworth, the hon. member for Nanaimo, the hon. member for Acadia and the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. These hon. members demonstrated, as they have on many previous occasions, their sympathy for the soldiers and their dependents. I have the great honour of representing a part of the city of Toronto in which is located the section known as Earls Court which, in the first great war, enlisted almost to a man and filled up the Princess Patricia's battalion, of which I had the honour to be patron. In the second great war the men in that section enlisted by the thousands. Other sections of Toronto and elsewhere perhaps in Canada did as well; but I can say that no part of Canada did any better and few parts equalled the voluntary enlistments in that area.

A few days ago a case came to my attention—and they are coming in all the time—about which I believe I have written to the department. It was that of a widow of the class mentioned by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. Her husband served in the first great war; but because the officers who were around England apparently took a great

[Mr. Knowles.]