

Sir ARTHUR CURRIE: To my mind, there is a great deal of merit in that suggestion. I know you will question me as to my views regarding all sorts of things. As I said, these suggested revisions to the Pension Act will be presented, and it would be a waste of time to ask me about them before they are officially presented. Would it not be wise to know about these suggested revisions which will be placed before you and explained to you by Colonel LaFlèche? If you think I can help you in coming to a conclusion, I will be pleased to do so, and will be glad to attend here again.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: I, for one, will not be able to digest all that has been outlined by Sir Arthur Currie in less than a week's time. At the same time, the general principles outlined by Sir Arthur Currie have been very clear, and when we have the printed document before us, I think we will be able to master the principles he has enunciated; after that, it becomes a matter of detail. Colonel LaFlèche and others are engaged in this work every day; the Committee will be able to obtain their services without imposing too much on General Currie. I am sure everybody appreciates his effort to-day, and when we read what he has said we will probably be able to get along without bringing him back.

Hon. Mr. MANION: May I ask this question: May I draw the conclusion from your remarks that you believe in any doubtful case the applicant should be given the benefit?

Sir ARTHUR CURRIE: Yes. I add, however, that if you put such a clause in the Act it is of no value; it might not be interpreted in a reasonable and fair way. The whole question depends upon the interpretation, and you will find that it comes down to that point every time.

The CHAIRMAN: I gather that it is not your view that the Act should be made wide open, so to speak, making, as you so well expressed it, every man who saw service a potential pensioner.

Sir ARTHUR CURRIE: That is my view.

The CHAIRMAN: So that we must find some solution between these two theories; on the one hand we have the theory that the soldier should obtain the benefit of any reasonable doubt, and on the other hand the theory that the Act must not be made so wide open as to allow any person to obtain a pension.

Sir ARTHUR CURRIE: Yes, that is my view.

Mr. ADSHEAD: General Sir Arthur Currie has laid a great deal of emphasis on the word "machinery" in its application to the interpretation of the Act. I should like him to give us an explanation of the word "machinery."

Sir ARTHUR CURRIE: We have two things, the Act and the Pensions Board responsible for its interpretation. Those two factors are what I term the machinery.

Mr. ADSHEAD: The personnel?

Sir ARTHUR CURRIE: Yes, the personnel.

Hon. Mr. MANION: Supposing we suggest that Sir Arthur be asked to attend next week.

Sir ARTHUR CURRIE: I would prefer days other than Tuesday or Friday.

Hon. Mr. MANION: We would confer with you before making arrangements.

The CHAIRMAN: Sir Arthur, on behalf of the committee I wish to thank you for your attendance this morning and for the manner in which you expressed the views which we feel are those of the returned soldiers, generally, and the people of Canada. We will now call upon Colonel LaFlèche.

Colonel L. R. LAFLÈCHE: Mr. Chairman, and gentlemen of the committee: I also wish to have the privilege of greeting this committee and stating with satisfaction that the personnel of the committee is much the same as the one