

no question about that: he is pensioned. I think Mr. Macdonald, in his argument, mentioned some circumstances that gave colour to it, but they did not affect it, such as the fact that a man who happened to have been a veteran of the last war was now serving and died. The fact that he was a veteran of the last war has nothing whatever to do with it. Let us keep in mind that they are under this Act if they are injured as a result of their service in Canada. If they die as a result of their service, they are pensioned or their widows are pensioned.

But that is a different thing altogether from the special consideration which was given in this section we are discussing, namely, special consideration to the man who had come home from fighting in battle for a month, a year, two years or three years; who was discharged, but for some reason or other was put in hospital immediately and was being given treatment, and then for some cause not due to the war at all he died. I do not think it was at all unreasonable that the special consideration given by this section should have been given to that man. But if you consider for a moment that every man who goes into uniform is insured by the state whether there is any idea that he will ever be subject to any hazard that any other civil servant is not exposed to, then you are getting into the question of whether a public servant should be insured. Take the case of an officer—although it does not matter whether it is a private or officer—in the administrative department of the air force, perhaps a very important department, with a high rank and high pay. What more right have we to provide an annuity for his wife if he dies than we have to provide a pension for anyone else? What more right have we, if he takes sick and dies, to give him a pension than we have to give a pension to anyone else? What we are discussing now, it seems to me, is the whole question of whether we should have insurance for everybody. As I say, there may be splendid arguments for that, but I certainly do think that we should keep the distinction between the men who are serving in a theatre of war and those who are not.

Mr. TURGEON: Mr. Chairman, since the discussion is apparently going into the whole question of insurance and we are dealing in fact with sub-section 2 as well as with paragraph (e) of section 11, may I just give a few thoughts to this committee. There is, without question, a great deal to what Mr. McLean has just said. For my purpose, I wish immediately to distinguish in my own mind between those who have joined or volunteered for service overseas and those who were called out under the Mobilization Act for annual training.. Any words that I mention have no reference whatever to those who were called out for training. I am dealing only with those who enlisted, knowing that at some time, whenever their senior officers so decide, they will be sent overseas. I am dealing with them not only because they volunteered and not only because at one time or another they will be actually in a theatre of war, but also because at the very moment they volunteered for service overseas, unlike the men who are called up for training, they immediately have cut themselves off from their ordinary way of life. Their lives no longer belong to them. They cannot arrange them. The arrangements of their life belongs to their senior officers. If for the time being they happen to be in camp in Canada, awaiting orders to proceed overseas, I am decidedly of opinion that the man who is injured of an evening when he is off duty should receive the same consideration as the man who is injured when he happens to be actually on duty.

Some Hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. TURGEON: I do not think there is any question about that at all. I am not at the moment going to make an argument in favour of it, because I understand from the chairman that we are simply giving the minister and the members of the commission our views so that they may be taken into consideration. As it strikes me, the moment a man enlists for service

[Brigadier-General H. F. McDonald.]