

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Yes, it is a separate Act. They would come under the Pension Act if death were due to military service.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: They would come under this Act?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Well, if death were due to military service.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: Now the Fenian Raid veterans are brought under this Act?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Yes. I do not know whether there are many of them left who are entitled to a pension. It likewise applies to South African veterans.

Section 6 was agreed to.

Sections 7 to 9 inclusive, were agreed to.

On Section 2—provision respecting support of parents amended (reconsidered):

Hon. Mr. DANIEL: Honourable gentlemen, before finishing with this Bill I would ask the Committee to take up section 2 again. Reading Section 2, I find in the wording of it nothing whatever to explain to anyone, at all events anyone who is not a lawyer and acquainted with these various statutes, what is being done. It is only incidentally that one learns that the effect of this is to take away from a soldier who has been unfortunate enough to contract venereal disease any benefit from this Pension Act. I take it that a man who has venereal disease, while he may have had no right to get it, is thereby punished severely enough, and I think it is not good policy to punish him still more, and, further, to punish all his dependents; for this Act affects not only the soldier in taking away his pension, but it affects also all those who are in any way dependent on him. It may be his children. It may be his wife, after he dies. I do not think that it is wise or good policy to punish a man who has already been punished, by excluding his dependents from the benefit of the Pension Act; and I would move the reconsideration of that section 2. There is nothing in the section as it reads to give any one an idea what it refers to, and it was only incidentally that I ascertained that it refers perhaps to those who have been unfortunate enough to contract venereal disease and die in consequence of it.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: I second that motion.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Let us understand this if we can. Section 12 of the Act reads as follows:

A pension shall not be awarded when the death or disability of the member of the forces was due to improper conduct as herein defined; provided that the Commission may, when the applicant is in a dependent condition, award such pension as it deems fit in the circumstances.

At that time, under the original Pension Act, he was not entitled.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Now, under the clause as just read, he is not entitled, but he may get it.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: His dependents may. We amended that by adding:

and provided also that the provisions of this section shall not apply when the death of the member of the forces concerned has occurred on service.

If he dies on service that does not apply.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: It means that he can get a pension.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: It means, as if he never had this disease.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Yes, if he dies on service.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Then he is forgiven.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Well, his dependents get the pension. Now, we simply amend this section 4 by providing that he shall have died prior to the coming into force of the Pension Act. That is to say, if he died prior to the coming into force of the Pension Act his family would have been entitled to a pension and would be drawing a pension to-day. That is all that we say. We do not propose that this Pension Act shall be made applicable to the members of the Permanent Force and those who may contract disease and who may suffer from misconduct after the coming into force of the Pension Act; that is all it means.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: That is, after July 7, 1919?

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: Then those who participated in the great war will not be affected?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: No, those who died prior to September 1, 1919.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: But those who contracted the disease during their military service and have died subsequent to this date, what about them?