

reach the public, I did not wish to have the public think that the country could be divided on such petty lines.

Hon. G. G. FOSTER: My honourable friend who leads the Government has omitted to tell the House that the appointment of a Committee to study this question has been withdrawn by Order in Council. I am not certain of that, but believe it is true. I saw it reported in the press. If the statement is correct, the people of this country should be told that the matter is not under consideration at the moment, but will come up at the next Session of Parliament, or that a committee from both Houses would be appointed to study this very important question.

For my part, I agree entirely with the honourable Leader of the Government on this question. I am in favour of everything that will bind this country to the Union Jack and the motherland. But when the Prime Minister says, as he did in the House, "We propose to have a distinctive Canadian emblem on the Union Jack, so that our Canadian Flag may be recognized by every man, woman and child in this country," I think the suggestion is a wise one, and should be encouraged; and no false patriotism should be invoked by anybody to prevent Canada from having, like other British possessions, a flag of its own.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I will bring down the Orders in Council.

THE PENSION BOARD

CRITICISM AT CONVENTION OF GREAT WAR VETERANS

On the Orders of the Day:

Hon. N. A. BELCOURT: Honourable gentlemen, I desire to bring to the attention of the House a statement which appears, in the same words, in the two morning papers of Ottawa. The statement I shall read is contained in the Citizen, but it appears also in the Journal:

Says Square Deal Impossible Under Present Chairman

The belief that the ex-service men and their dependents in Canada would not get a "square deal" until the present chairman of the Board of Pension Commissioners was removed from office, or "mends his views," was expressed at the annual convention of the Great War Veterans' Association here yesterday by C. Grant MacNeil, Dominion secretary.

Mr. MacNeil's views were endorsed by L. W. Humphrey, Progressive member of parliament for Kootenay, B.C., who is a delegate from Trail and Nelson branches. The Dominion secretary said that during the recent consideration of the Pensions Act amendments by the Senate committee, the pensions board chairman sat beside the chairman of the committee "mutilating" vital sections of the act and paying no attention to serious cases of distress

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on which concrete evidence had been adduced. These clauses had been inserted after years of careful investigation by the Ralston Royal Commission and other reputable bodies. Mr. MacNeil said he thought the members of the pensions board were obstructed in their duties, and held nothing personal against the members.

Soldiers' settlement and unemployed questions will be considered this morning.

I think that the most elementary demands of fair play and justice call upon this House to deal with that statement, which was apparently endorsed unanimously by the Convention now sitting in Ottawa, and has been widely published. In my opinion, we ought to dissent entirely from and protest against it.

In what I have to say of the Chairman of the Pension Board I shall refer only to the investigation entrusted to the Special Committee of the Senate regarding Canteen Funds and other matters and the two Bills on these subjects, and to the reports submitted by that Committee. The Chairman of the Board; his assistant, Mr. Paton; Mr. Gallagher, the auditor of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment; Colonel Parkinson, the Deputy Minister of the same Department, and several other gentlemen in the Service, either with the Pension Board or in the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, were summoned to appear before the Committee to give information and express their views with regard to the matters under investigation. Colonel Thompson, the Chairman of the Board of Pensions, like his assistant, Mr. Paton, and the others, had to obey the command of the Committee, and he came. They were not present at their own suggestion or by their own will or inclination: they were there as witnesses. The Chairman of the Board sat for a while next to the Chairman of the Committee, as did Mr. Paton, Mr. Gallagher and the others I have named. Mr. MacNeil himself sat next to the Chairman of the Committee whilst giving evidence or information. Colonel Thompson gave information and his views when he was questioned by the Committee. I think every member of the Committee will agree with my recollection that on no occasion did he display any animus or antagonism towards the soldiers with respect to any one of these matters, but on the contrary, in one instance at least, on a clause dealing with tuberculous cases, he made a suggestion quite favorable to the soldiers, regarding the propriety of inserting in the Bill some provision which would be more liberal than that contained in it, in the case of tuberculous cases. Many representatives of the different soldiers' organizations were present, and they were all