

11 GEORGE V, A. 1920

By Mr. REDMAN: You mean you have not the power?—A. We have not the power.

*By Mr. McGibbon:*

Q. Do you not do that now, so far as the British exchange is concerned?

Mr. AHERN: No, the British pensioners get the advantage of the exchange.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: It works the other way in England.

Mr. MCGIBBON: I was informed by the Minister of Militia that the cheques paid to the boys who were in the Imperial army, that is British cheques, are paid at par by the Canadian Government.

Mr. REDMAN: It appears that there is an Order in Council that any government cheques payable in foreign countries will be paid in currency.

Mr. MCGIBBON: I was informed by the Minister of Militia that what I stated was correct, that the Canadian Government does pay the discount on Imperial cheques.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: That is on Imperial cheques here. That was recommended by our Committee last year. There were great complaints by Imperial soldiers here that they were paying a large discount on their British cheques, and we recommended last year to the House of Commons that the British cheques were to be paid at par.

An HON. MEMBER: Why not carry the principle further and pay them all at par?

The CHAIRMAN: It is for us to consider that.

Mr. CALDWELL: If there was an Act passed making these pensions payable at par, has the department any information as to how it would affect the finances of the country? We would have the advantage of the exchange in England.

The CHAIRMAN: We would have to increase our staff in the Pensions Department about double.

Mr. E. H. SCAMMELL: May I clear up the point about the payment at par of Imperial pensions in Canada? That was arranged not through what was done by the last committee; that referred to the payment of other amounts. The pensions are payable by the Board of Imperial Pensions here, or through its office, which is now attached to the Board of Pension Commissioners, out of the monies which the post office supplies on account of money orders. Those money orders belong to the British Government. They are taken at par, and the British Government arranges for their transference at par. There is no discount one way or another. The money does not come out of Canada. It does not cost us anything, and it does not cost the British Government anything. That is how that has been arranged all through.

Mr. MORPHY: Why could not that be arranged through the United States by a bank here having an agency there?

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: It could be done if the Government would pay the difference.

An HON. MEMBER: The banks all charge a discount.

Mr. MORPHY: The banks get a great many favours from Canada at times.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: That is a matter for the Committee.

*By Mr. Morphy:*

Q. To what Canadian bank have you to go to get your cheques cashed?—A. The Bank of Montreal.

Q. The Bank of Montreal only? Are there no other Canadian banks that have agencies in Chicago?—A. The Bank of Commerce, and the Bank of Nova Scotia. I am not sure about the Royal Bank.

Q. At all events you have three large Canadian banks in Chicago?—A. Yes.

Mr. MORPHY: I was wondering whether it was possible that the banks were getting the advantage instead of the Government.

[Mr. Nightingale].