

Further, that the Surgeon-General of Canada should absorb the duties of director of medical services, invalids, and be chief medical officer of the Military Hospitals Commission, and be ex-officio a member of the Military Hospitals Commission and of its executive.

Further, that Surgeon-General Fotheringham, who has been recalled from overseas to become Director of Medical Services, Invalids, should be appointed forthwith as acting Surgeon-General of Canada;

Further, that the views expressed by Surgeon-General Fotheringham in his evidence before the Parliamentary Committee on Returned Soldiers at its sitting on June 12th, 1917, are generally endorsed;

Further, that copies of this resolution be sent to the Right Honorable the Premier of Canada, the Right Honorable the leader of the Opposition, the Honorable the Minister of Militia and Defence, the Parliamentary Secretary of Militia and Defence, the chairman of the Military Hospitals Commission, the chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Returned Soldiers, and the press.

It has been long felt that the plan adopted in this country for the care of returned soldiers would lead to confusion. There are two sources of authority. The one is the Department of Militia, and the other is the Hospitals Commission. We contend that there is work for both, but along entirely different lines.

We hold that the Department of Militia should retain the full control over the returned soldier until he is discharged from the army and goes into civil life. This would mean that the medical and surgical care and nursing attendance upon the invalided soldier would be responsible to the Minister of Militia. Here let us make it clear that the Government should at once appoint a competent person to take charge of all this work; and as it is entirely professional, that person should be a member of the medical profession—a surgeon-general.

Then with regard to the Hospitals Commission, the duty of this very important body should be to finance the whole care of the returned soldiers. It should provide the requisite hospital accommodation, properly furnish the hospitals, and provide proper transportation facilities. But the sort of furnishing, the sort of food, the quality of the nursing, and the efficiency of the medical and surgical care must be decided upon by the surgeon-general, who is responsible to the Minister of Militia.

In no other way can any consistent scheme of treatment be carried out that will not lead to friction, and, worse than friction, positive chaos. We have no patience with the specious argument that because the returned soldier is a wastage of the war, he should be taken off the hands of the military authorities and placed under the control of the