

9-10 GEORGE V, A. 1919

A. I think there are very many of those soldiers who have a greater desire to get a pension than they have to get a position; while that class is in the minority there are quite a number of men coming within it.

Q. What do you mean by "position," a Government position or work?—A. Work of any kind.

*By the Vice-Chairman:*

Q. With regard to the men who are getting pensions from 25 per cent upward do you think those pensions are fairly adequate?—A. Oh, yes, I do. Of course in exceptional cases they may not be, but in the majority of them it is fairly adequate.

*By Mr. McCurdy:*

Q. What do you find, at the present time, to be the disposition on the part of employers towards the soldiers?—A. They are willing to give the returned soldier a chance, but unfortunately I have met the managers of six or seven firms in Montreal, whom I know personally, and they told me they would not give employment to a returned soldier.

*By Mr. Ross:*

Q. Why?—A. They claim that they could not give him the position in view of the fact that he would be off so much on account of sickness. I have argued that point with them many, many times.

*By Mr. McCurdy:*

Q. Do they allege that their decision is based on their experience in the employment of returned soldiers, or are they opposed to it on principle?—A. They are opposed to it, and oppose it on heresay.

*By Mr. Pardee:*

Q. They have not tried?—A. No, and they will not try.

*By Mr. McCurdy:*

Q. A large number of firms have given employment to returned soldiers?—A. Yes, quite a number.

Q. We had before the Committee on Returned Soldiers a year or two ago the Dominion Bridge man, who told us that he had at that time in his employ 600 to 700 returned soldiers.—A. Many munition plants, Peter Lyall & Company, Dominion Bridge Company and the Canada Car and Foundry Company, where they have two applicants and one of them a returned soldier, the returned soldier gets the preference and allowances are made.

*By Mr. Nesbitt:*

Q. Most of the large firms would give them a good opportunity?—A. Yes, the larger firms would.

*By the Vice-Chairman:*

Q. Has your experience led you to any conclusion as to whether or not there is this industrial impairment as alleged?—A. No.

Q. Do you mean that your experience does not lead you to any conclusion, or that there is no impairment?—A. My experience has led me to believe the returned soldier is making good.

Q. When he gets a chance?—A. Yes. Give him a chance and he will make good. In many cases these men are employed in firms where they have a large staff, and most of them have had previous business experience, and we know these business firms, and when we hear of our pensioners being in these firms we very often telephone to the people whom we know, and tell them of the returned soldier being there,

[Miss E. M. Kearney.]