

April 26th 1924

E.H. Scammell Esqr
Asst. Deputy Minister S.C.R.
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Mr Scammell,

Replying to the question you put to me last evening regarding the basis on which I arrived at the statement I made in my report about saving that I claimed could have been effected on military obituaries.

In your communication of April 10th you gave me the following statistics of Funerals of returned deceased men for whom the government has been responsible - since the beginning of the war of 1914, and in the Dominion of Canada:-

Militia & Defence	3,569	
Dept. S.C.R.	3,554	
Pensions Re-imbs'ts	528	Total cases 7,651

I based my estimate on the following:-

- (1) In Militia & Defence cases, I am convinced from experience that we could have effected a saving of 50%
- (2) Unless your Department is given free ground, to bury and mark the grave, you would be committed to the following cost:-

Funeral - Contract price	\$ 65.00	
Burial - Grave and Cem: fees (fair average)	30.00	
Headstone - I.W.G.C. Contract	50.00	\$145.00

Our maximum for all, is \$100.00

- (3) Unless administered by someone who understands justifiable costs, 50% of the maximum re-imbursment allowance is 'absorbed' because government funds pay for it.

On the above basis, I estimate that an -over all - saving of 35% could have been effected through a universal system of administration and costs, which represents 7,651 multiplied by .035 and equals \$267,785.00

I note from the disbursements you quote in your own Department that the per capita cost has been approximately \$80.00, but that does not include the cost of grave and Cemetery fees in many cases, and never the Headstone, so if you add the cost of the stone to the \$80.00 it brings it up to \$130.00.

I shall be interested to receive any counter remarks you may feel disposed to make, and trust you will accept the above in the spirit of amity it is submitted in.

With kindest regards.

Faithfully

Dominion Secretary-Treasurer
L.P.F. of C.