

at Ottawa, closing the account for assigned pay. In many instances the soldier did not return to Canada until long after this last pay certificate was issued, and sometimes did not return at all. Ottawa stopped the assigned pay in accordance with instructions received from London, and a soldier's dependent had to get along as best he or she could. In many cases the soldier's dependent suffered hardship through non-receipt of this assigned pay.

This practice has now been stopped, and the assigned pay is continued by the Assigned Pay and Separation Allowance Branch at Ottawa until such time as a sailing list actually shows the soldier as having left for Canada. The account is then transferred by the Assigned Pay and Separation Allowance Branch to the Casualty Paymaster, Ottawa, who continues payments until such time as the soldier is discharged.

While our Inquiry deals with the pay and allowances of returned soldiers, the above outline is necessary to make comprehension of the methods followed, and of the care exercised for the pay of these men.

On arrival in Canada, a small amount of cash is given him for expenses en route to his home or to the hospital, as the case may be, and his last pay certificate and other documents are forwarded to the Casualty Paymaster from Ottawa, who makes up his pay account, and forwards it to the Paymaster of the District to which the soldier has gone.

It takes two or three weeks to make up the pay accounts of the soldiers returning by each trip. In making these numerous entries, delays and errors are of course, liable to occur.

At an early stage of the sittings, your Committee invited all discharged and undischarged soldiers to submit to the Committee any existing grievances and as a result, complaints regarding pay and allowances were placed before the Committee, some of these by the soldiers themselves. The cases so brought to the attention of your Committee have been examined individually, and it has been found that many of the complaints were due to the fact that they had never been laid before the proper parties in the Department.

Of the cases not falling within this category, investigation disclosed that there had been considerable exaggeration in some of the complaints.

There have been numerous cases of hardship due to mistakes and unnecessary delays in the matter of the adjustment of pay and allowances of returned soldiers and their families. Evidence of improvement in recent months is, however, apparent.

#### THE WORK OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

Your Committee, between the 7th of February and the 13th of July, has held twenty sittings, has examined ninety-six witnesses, and submits herewith in fifteen parts the verbatim report of the evidence, together with a number of statistical statements deemed to be of interest and value.

Sittings of the committee were held in Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto, and the conditions existent in every province of Canada were brought under careful examination and review.

Witnesses representing every important agency throughout the Dominion, working for the care of the returned soldier, also thirty-two delegates of soldiers' organizations were heard at length. No less than eighty individual cases of alleged hardship or injustice were thoroughly investigated. Members of Parliament and others desirous of further studying the evidence will find each of the following matters exhaustively covered.