

*By Mr. Sutherland:*

Q. Take the statement that you make that there was discrimination shown between officers and men in awarding the pensions, are you prepared to substantiate that statement with evidence?—A. No, sir, the only thing is by knowledge of having so many men making these complaints, that is all; but I always take it that there is a kind of fraternal feeling amongst officers; officers are sitting on the board, and if another officer comes in he is always treated with courtesy, and very, very nice. A man comes in and he is treated as a different subject altogether. I have had that experience myself.

Q. Is that the general opinion among veterans?—A. Yes. If you ask a man to be boarded he says, "What's the good?" They have no confidence in the medical board; of course that is the rank and file.

*By Mr. Cronyn:*

Q. You are speaking of interviews by the men with the medical board?—A. Yes. We did try to get a medical board to examine the soldiers privately, and we offered to pay their expenses, but we have been unable to get the assistance of medical officers. We tried to get Dr. Mayburry, but he would not accept the position as medical adviser on the board of the Great War Veterans as it would not be an official position, and his dignity would be hurt by making a report on a man's disability and the Pension Board not accepting that report. We have had difficulty in getting medical men to examine the men, and the men would rather pay the expenses of a private doctor than go to a medical board. That is the feeling of the men regarding the medical board.

The CHAIRMAN: We are very much obliged to you.

Witness retired.

The CHAIRMAN: Col. McGillivray and Col. Cameron are here from General Fotheringham's office. We should like to have Col. Cameron come and tell us something of the dealings of that department.

Col. IRVING H. CAMERON, M.B., of the Board of Consultants, Department of Militia, appeared at the request of the Committee. He said: I have no instructions. I was merely told that Col. McGillivray and I were detailed to come here and answer any questions. We are not instructed to say anything.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. It is in connection with the practice of dealing with syphilis, and cases of that kind, affecting pensions.—A. Either of us will be happy to give you any information in our power.

Q. Objection was made yesterday by representatives of the Great War Veterans to the practice being followed in dealing with cases of syphilis; their contention was that if a man was passed as medically fit and went overseas, that should be accepted, and the man should not lose his pension by reason of a report later that the trouble from which he was suffering existed before he went overseas; in other words, if he is passed as medically fit, that should be a clean bill of health, and everything should date from that date; we should be glad to have your views or any statement in reference to that.—A. Syphilis is a disease which is divisible into three separate stages, more or less distinct, and in the interval between these stages there may be no gross evidence of a man having had any trouble. Under those circumstances his statement would be received as representing the facts.

Q. Would you then explain to us the status, Doctor, so that the committee will appreciate it?—A. In the initial stage of syphilis there is a primary sore, which may be on any part of the body, with a break in the integument which has come in contact

[Col. I. H. Cameron, M.B.]