

APPENDIX No. 6

By Mr. Redman:

Q. You told us that you were the first department in Ottawa to institute the clock system?—A. Yes.

Q. What proportion of your staff use the clock system?—A. Well, all but the heads of the branches, and the officials in Ottawa, the commissioners, the secretary, the director, and the legal adviser, and so on, and the heads and assistant heads I think of each branch.

Q. Is that by the regulation of the Civil Service Commission?—A. No, I do not think they have anything covering time clocks at all.

Q. How many in your department do not use the clock at all?—A. I would not think there would be more than 50 out of a staff of 700 odd. That is at Ottawa; in our districts we have not clocks.

Q. Have you any means at all of keeping constant check upon the times at which these 50 arrive and depart?—A. I am afraid we have not now, other than that the secretary is supposed to be responsible.

Q. It is possible the secretary would not see them very much, and it is also true that regularity and punctuality on the part of these heads would have a very great influence on these officials?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you ever thought of some device or scheme whereby some regulation could be made to insure their punctuality?—A. I really cannot say that we have. We have not felt so far that there has been any real necessity.

Q. Do you know that members of Parliament at the end of each month are asked to make a declaration that they have been in attendanace during the month?—A. Yes. We might institute something of that kind.

Q. I have heard, as a matter of fact, from other departments, not in regard to your own at all, that they found difficulty in regard to some of the assistant heads, who are older men than the deputy, and the deputies do not like to go after them, but it seems to me there would be no objection to these heads and deputy heads taking a declaration previous to their obtaining a cheque?—A. I think that is a good idea.

Q. You think that might be useful?—A. I think it might be very useful.

Q. If some mechanical device were put in, it might be a great help?—A. Yes.

Q. You have a very large staff at present, comparatively speaking, for your work. Do you hope that that staff will be reduced in the near future?—A. I do.

Q. For what reasons?—A. Well, since December our staff has increased very materially, due to demobilization. The increase comes mostly in the district offices out through the country, wherever they are actually in touch with the demobilized soldier, and we have to get all medical documents in connection with that soldier immediately upon his discharge. It requires the addition of a large number of typists and stenographers and such persons.

Q. About when do you hope that the first decrease will take place?—A. It should come immediately upon the cessation of demobilization.

Q. By the fall?—A. It should come by the early fall, probably October.

Q. Will you have any particular person in charge of checking that aspect of the work; that is the decreasing of staff as the work finishes?—A. We are watching that every day. Mr. Archibald reports to me nearly every day on that.

Q. You have not any memorandum made up as to the amount of salaries you are paying and the costs of administration in your department?—A. Well, I have got the amount of salary paid every employee.

Q. You have not got it totalled?—A. I have not got it just before me. I can get that for you.

Q. It is true that the cost of your administration compared to the payment of pensions generally is very heavy, and people who do not look into it throughly and know why are inclined to criticize?—A. I am sorry I have not before me the percentage of costs per pension. I can get that for each district office. I had those last week.

[Major Stanley B. Coristine.]