

APPENDIX No. 6

you definite assurance at the moment; that is out of the question," but you must remember that it is five years now since the war ended, and our disabilities are permanent things. The disability that we have is a disability that stays with us every hour of the twenty-four hours each day. I am telling you of our own experience and that is our experience. Much is said about a working-hour day, but God knows, during the other sixteen hours, or whatever the case may be, how little can we do in our home lives, and how wrong it is for our wives to have to do things we ought to be able to do. We have come to the conclusion that it is about time that we settled down and got away from these things. We must stabilize things; we have to get somewhere. Remember that many of us were discharged from the army at the peak of high prices. As all of you are aware, the housing situation in this country was so serious at a time that many of us undertook obligations of a nature that meant we had to assume first mortgages, paying a little money down out of our gratuities, and give back a second mortgage on the properties; and we had to carry these obligations. If we were to turn around and say that we repudiated these obligations, what kind of people would you say we were? Surely, having assumed obligations of a nature that is of tremendous importance to the national life of this country, we are entitled to say that the least the country can do for us is to say, "Men, don't worry so far as your pension of \$900 is concerned." We recognize that in taking the pension of \$900, that does not altogether deal with all the men, because all the men are not 100 per cent disabled. Many of our men are but partially disabled, and therefore they receive but a proportionate amount of \$900. Now, when you come to divide that amount of money into weekly amounts you will see how insignificant and small the amounts are. There are many men in this country to-day who are getting a 50 or 60 per cent pension, and who are practically depending on their pension for their livelihood because the loss of their earning power is perhaps 100 per cent. It is not a very easy thing to talk about, and, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you very much on behalf of our organization for the courtesy you have extended to me. I would like you to ask me questions if you think they would help you in this matter. We have present with us, Comrade Lyons, who is a blinded soldier, and we have other disabilities here who would be willing to tell you anything you desire. I can assure you they will tell you the truth. What I would like you to do, if you can, is to tell us how far we can go and give us your opinion as to whether we are right or wrong about this matter. Is our request an excessive request? If it is an excessive request, tell us now that it is excessive, and if that is the case, we will have to come down; but do not keep us in a state of uncertainty.

The CHAIRMAN: Ladies and gentlemen, before any questions are asked, I would like Mr. Dobbs to address the Committee.

Mr. W. S. DOBBS: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, this is the fourth time that I have had the honour of appearing before a Parliamentary Committee, and I appreciate the honour very much. As Mr. Myers has pretty well covered the ground, I will not detain you very long with my remarks. We are asking that the pension of \$600, plus the \$300 bonus, be made a permanent basic minimum award, not only on behalf of the Amputation Association, but on behalf of 43,000 odd pensioners. We are also asking that the widow's pension of \$60 per month, of which \$20 a month is bonus, be made a permanent basic minimum award for the widow. A pension of \$900 a year, worked out, represents something like \$17 a week. If the bonus is cut off, it amount to one-third, in a total disability case—and we have some 112 in the Amputation Association who are total disability cases and who are receiving from \$12 to \$17 a week, and no matter how the cost of living comes down—that is the argument that has been used on one or two occasions—no matter how the cost of living comes down it must be admitted that \$12 a week is hardly a living wage for a man