

8-9 GEORGE V, A. 1918

Q. Is it a case where, if you were reporting on it, you would report total disability from the facts disclosed?—A. Yes, total disability.

Q. Is there any doubt about that?—A. No, not in my mind.

Q. Is there sufficient data there to enable you to express any opinion as to whether that disability existed in any respect at the date of enlistment?—A. The present condition apparently is largely connected, with the diseased condition of the heart. The medical board of 17th June, 1915 says there was no sign of heart trouble. That is stated emphatically on the board—that is the first indication of heart trouble. There is a history there of course of his having had duodenal ulcer of many years standing. That is reported on the board of January 26, 1915, and for this he was operated on successfully. There is also a reference to the fact that he had been previously operated on before enlistment for gall stones and disease of the appendix.

Q. Taking the medical boards as you see them there on file, what would you say as to whether that disability was contracted during service or was simply aggravated during service?—A. Well, if the statement in the board of June 17 is correct, that this condition of valvular disease of the heart was the first indication of heart trouble, then of course it was acquired during service. One would like in that particular to have had a record of his case history sheet while in hospital for the operation for duodenal ulcer. That is not in the file. He was operated on along apparently in February, 1915, but there is no record of the operation itself or the actual condition found in that file. There is simply this statement that no symptoms of heart trouble were present before this attack.

Q. Do you usually have such in the medical files?—A. Such a case history sheet has no doubt been made, but it likely has remained in England. It should accompany the case. It is supposed to accompany it now. Three years ago many of the case history sheets were not sent to Canada.

*By Mr. Nickle:*

Q. You base your conclusion on that finding of the medical board that there was no evidence of heart trouble prior to that date?—A. There is no record whatever of that condition on the board of 26th January, 1915. The report of 26th January states that he had duodenal ulcer of many years standing from which he had a hemorrhage two weeks before, and the board of 17th June reports that he was operated on successfully for this and had this attack of heart trouble, and that was the first sign of the attack.

The CHAIRMAN.—Major Cronyn made a statement the other day in regard to this matter. I would ask him to repeat it.

Mr. CRONYN: I stated that in the autumn of 1914, I met an Indian who, on the outbreak of the war in August, was sent in as a runner some distance up in the Temagami Forest Reserve, where Colonel Labatt happened to be, and this man informed me that Colonel Labatt packed up and went out with him, doing what was an ordinary three-days trip in one day, breaking all records as he put it. The man intimated to me that Colonel Labatt did his share of the carrying and paddling. I did not give this as evidence to the committee when we were considering the case.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Assuming that to be true would that indicate that at that time Colonel Labatt was not suffering from any heart trouble?—A. Apparently he was not suffering from any heart condition.

Q. Could a man suffering from a cardiac heart do what has been described?—A. Not without distress, and showing physical fatigue. It would look, from the history such as is found there, as if something had happened between January and June for this onset of this cardiac trouble—between January 26 and June 15, 1915.

[Dr. D. J. McKay ]