

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

ROOM 429, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,

OTTAWA, February 21, 1935.

The Standing Committee on Industrial and International Relations met this day at 11 a.m., the Acting Chairman, Mr. Stanley, presiding.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: I presume the organizations representing the blind have arranged their submissions and I will ask whoever they have to present to come forward. Is Captain Baker here?

Mr. BAKER: It is my understanding that Mr. Layton would like to introduce the delegation.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Just come right forward, please Mr. Layton.

Mr. GILBERT LAYTON: My name is Gilbert Layton. I am just going to introduce the first speaker. I am the secretary of the Canadian Federation of the Blind, and also secretary and general manager of the Montreal Association for the Blind. I wish to introduce as our first speaker to-day, my father, Philip E. Layton, founder and president of the Canadian Federation of the Blind, and also founder and president of the Montreal Association for the Blind.

I would just like to mention at this time that the Montreal Association for the Blind has taken a pioneer place in the work among the adult blind in Canada. Our organization was founded in 1908, and in that year opened the first workshop for the adult blind in Canada. The case of the adult blind has never been adequately taken care of as in comparison with the case of blind children; but our institution has recognized the need of the adult blind and organized the work for the adult blind. It has also engineered the present movement with respect to pensions for the adult blind largely made possible by a fund which has been subscribed to by members of the Layton family. The Association believes in the principle of pensions, and Mr. Philip E. Layton will now speak to you upon the matter.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Just bring Mr. Layton forward to the seat at my right, which is provided for witnesses.

Mr. PHILIP E. LAYTON called.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Just take a seat, Mr. Layton.

The WITNESS: I think I will stand. I can read better. (Braille).

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, the National Institute and the Canadian Federation for the Blind are very glad and very thankful for this opportunity to come before this distinguished gathering to discuss the problem of the blind, the work of the blind, the needs of the blind and the tragedy of the blind.

As my son said, I was president and founder of the Canadian Federation for the Blind; that is an organization largely made up of blind people. It is really a union of the blind, to promote their interests. The organization was started about nine years ago and the main object of it was to get pensions. We realized that we would not get very far if we were not organized; so the blind organized, we followed our friends with their eyesight. The movement first started in Winnipeg.

Now it is said, Mr. Chairman, that if you want to know facts, you must go to those who know the facts. I think Mr. Turnbull has shown great wisdom in going to the blind and giving us a chance to talk about the things needful for the blind. It stands to reason that we who are blind know our own business