

APPENDIX No. 3

what the amount may be, as long as it has the name of an allowance from the Government they are not counted as poor people.

Q. We do not take count of an allowance from the Government with regard to the schooling in Montreal; the property owners are paying for it?—A. Yes, but the books are not supplied.

Mr. LAPOINTE: The books are supplied to families that are poor. Our principals in every school are instructed to keep books and give them to the children if they are satisfied that the people cannot buy them.

By the Vice-Chairman:

Q. As I understand Miss Kearney's stand it is this, that where the widow is getting a pension, and there are children, those who are responsible for the decision do not consider her to be a poor woman when she is getting a pension?—A. In every case I ask the question whether the children are going to school and the name of the school which they are attending; of course I have a list of the schools and I have never yet received any answer different from this, "Yes, but we have to pay for the books, which are very expensive."

By Mr. Lapointe:

Q. The poor children are generally given books free, that is our practice; if the father or mother think they cannot buy the books then they will be given to the children free?—A. But in the registers of the schools—I have gone to the schools in cases like that and I have looked at the registers in the principal's office and I have seen it entered there, "Child of a soldier," and I have seen it recorded there that the children did not attend regularly, that they have no books, and I have said, "Why?" and the reply has been, "We have the books here for the poor children, but the mothers of these children are getting an allowance."

By the Vice-Chairman:

Q. Do I understand that in your opinion you think both in the rural and in the urban districts of Quebec the pension allowances are too low for the widows and in respect to the children?—A. Yes, I do.

Q. They need to get \$10 a month up?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you any experience in the homes of disabled men?—A. Yes, I have gone into many of them and I would say that the discontent is very largely among the men who are disabled anywhere from 5 per cent to 25 per cent, and who are getting a small disability pension. That is a small amount for a man who has a wife and children and consequently he is discontented for the same reason that Mrs. Morrow has referred to, that he does not get the idea that he has been pensioned according to his disability, he thinks that he is pensioned for his service. They have complained to me and they say, "I have served for three years and I am only getting \$10 a month while my neighbour who served only nine months is getting \$30."

By Mr. Lapointe:

Q. I have heard the same complaint, but I do not know why?—A. They do not look at the pension as having been given according to their disability and, I am afraid, it would take a lot of persuasion to make them look at it that way.

By the Vice-Chairman:

Q. Have you any suggestion as to how that difficulty can be overcome? Is it that they do not understand or has it not been fully explained to them?—A. I think they are spoiled to a great extent.

By Mr. Andrews:

Q. It is a very common thing to hear them say, "I have been over there three years and I am only getting \$10 a month," that is a common expression heard everywhere.—

[Miss E. M. Kearney.]