

who went to fight your battle and mine many, many miles away from home. Getting on the train about the middle of last month, a man came to me and said that So-and-So had lost his left arm and his right eye. And the poor old father of that boy, that boy who has made such a sacrifice for the country, is left to live on \$15 a month.

It is late in the morning, but it is not too late for this country and this Parliament to be told that there is at least one case of this kind. When the session opened in January last, I took up that case. I wrote a letter, as strong as I could write it, to the Assigned Pay and Separation Branch. I got a courteous reply, stating that no provision had been made for such cases. When I came back I took it up again. I called up Major Ingalls, a perfect gentleman, who treated me with all kindness. I stated the case over the telephone. He asked me to write him a letter and send it by special messenger. I said: "I will write the letter and carry it down myself." And I did. He went into the case as well as he could, calling in the gentleman who had charge of that department and discussing it with him. They told me there was no provision for a case of that kind. In discussing the matter, I found that there were only two fathers in this country who were drawing separation allowance. I say, it is not too late in the morning to discuss a matter of that kind, and to call attention to the case of this poor old cripple, who would starve to death if it were not for the charity of his neighbours in the district in which he lives, while this country stands by and, so far as Parliament is concerned, does nothing for him. I was advised to take up this case with the Patriotic Fund in Winnipeg, and I wrote to the secretary. I said, just as I have said here, that I would write a letter and carry it myself. I wish to thank the representatives of the Patriotic Fund in Winnipeg from my place here in Parliament for the way in which they treated me. I found there two gentlemen of the highest character who made inquiry into the matter, and the result was that that Patriotic Fund granted that poor old man \$10 a month. That is not the way for this Government, or for the men who form a government in this free country, to treat the father of a boy who has offered his life in defence of the country and who, though living, has lost one arm and one eye and has had his face torn in pieces by shell fire.

I do not want to criticise the Government in these matters, I want to help them. Such contributions as were made in these cases are regulated according to the judgment of a committee who claim the privilege of digging into affairs of the families and dependents of our soldiers. This gives such aids all the features of charity—which is most objectionable to a proud people such as we have in Canada. Many instances are on record where the dependents of soldiers are too proud to admit that they are deriving their substance from the charity of the public, and as a result refuse to be helped in this way. Why should the element of public charity enter at all into the method of looking after dependents of our brave men who are prepared to give up their lives for such a cause as our country is fighting for? The Patriotic Fund, in my judgment, should be paid into the treasury of the country and all aids given should issue therefrom, rather than have it placed in the hands of a committee, the members of which, in many cases, are most objectionable to our soldiers and their dependents. Is it fair that a member of a Patriotic Fund Committee should have the right to go into the homes of our soldiers and demand an accounting of how moneys are being expended and what are the sources of revenue of such families?—a privilege which no one would dare exercise with the humblest citizen in our country. Remove this entirely by providing for the soldier's dependents out of the treasury of our country in generous manner worthy of the great sacrifice made not only by the boys but by the wives, sons and daughters, the fathers and mothers, who are giving up so much for the cause. The separation allowance given by the country should be increased, and should bear a direct proportion to the number depending for support on the soldier. This amount should be paid every month to the proper person, and such amount should not depend in any way on the amount assigned by the soldier. If we are undertaking to care for those dependent on our soldiers we should do so in such a way as to entirely remove from our gallant boys' minds any anxiety about their families comfort. Voluntary recruiting would receive such a stimulus from such a policy, as, in my judgment, would entirely remove the necessity for any such legislation as is before the House to-night.

When we look around us and see the wages enjoyed by our labouring men in