

APPENDIX No. 2

Q. I have had some cases in my own constituency, and they refused to go on because you only give them the rank of lieutenant, and they will not go on under a man they taught in college?—A. As to that I cannot answer. We have lots of good men from your town.

Q. Men in my riding say that they would assist your board, but they object to going as lieutenants under captains who were their college students years ago?—A. That is a purely sentimental reason.

Q. Would it be better to take those medical boards out of military uniforms, and put them in mufti?—A. I would not think so.

Q. Why?—A. You would not have control of the men then. It is difficult enough running boards and controlling the men and getting them together in the time necessary when they have the uniform.

Q. How does the uniform give you control?—A. You must know that uniform gives you control.

By Mr. Nesbitt:

Q. They are sworn in, are they not?—A. Certainly.

By Mr. Nickle:

Q. Could they not get the control with ordinary medical men?—A. The service is bad enough as it is. I am not trying to cover up the medical service in any shape or form.

By the Chairman:

Q. I understand the position; you are doing the very best you can?—A. With the material we have at hand, absolutely; and as to detecting syphilis, that is one thing—there are a number of things—but we cannot tell unless they tell when they come in about their chronic conditions. In giving a man disability, it all depends on whether that man gets the disability from which he is suffering on account of a past history; in other words, whether he covered up anything when he came into the service, in order to get into the service. You know how keen they were to get in. Then I am informed that at Valcartier many of the commanding officers took the men that were turned down, tore up their medical history sheets,—I know that occurred in numbers of cases in the West where they were recruiting—men that the boards turned down, the officers in command were so keen to have the regiment up to strength that they took these men, and off they went; so it is not the country boards that are responsible for those conditions.

By Mr. Nickle:

Mr. Knight, representing the Great War Veterans' Association, complained here the other day, that on returning the boards have referred to medical sheets in England in which the man said, in coming out of hospital they were quite well; and that the medical boards here practically estopped the men from denying that, telling them, "You said you were well in England; now you can't be sick," and so they put the disability very, very low. Mr. Knight said that the men, while in England, said they were well because they were fed up, as it were, with hospital, and wanted to get home. The veterans think the men should be dealt with on their merits here, regardless of anything they said in England?—A. It is pretty difficult to do that, unless you can get access to the previous boards. I am a returned man myself, and have every sympathy with returned men, but many of those men, when they come out here, give you an entirely different history from what they gave in England, as to previous illness and that sort of thing, in order to get as much pension as possible, and to make the disability as great as possible. You know perfectly well that no two men are capable of giving equally detailed accounts of their illness, as one man will magnify the things beyond words, another fellow will give you a story of hairbreadth escapes which certainly show he must have been born to be hung, otherwise he could not get