

APPENDIX No 1

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kirkwood, where were you working prior to your enlisting in the first place?

Mr. KIRKWOOD: I was working in Vancouver.

The CHAIRMAN: In your trade?

Mr. KIRKWOOD: No.

By the Chairman:

Q. What wages were you getting in your trade?—A. Four dollars a day.

Q. And what did you get there?—A. Nine pence ha'penny.

By Mr. Cooper:

Q. You had a wife and family to keep?—A. Yes.

By the Chairman:

Q. You were getting \$4 per day here?—A. Yes, and I had myself to support and my wife and family, and you know all that it means to keep a house in this country going. That was an impossibility.

Q. You left your family here?—A. Yes. I could not keep my house going. My case is an illustration of what generally is prevailing, with the result that my wife in my absence was compelled, through necessities of domestic requirements, to assume debts and other obligations which I now have to meet, and after being away in the service of the country for three and a half years, simply because it was my duty to stay there, I feel that the country ought to assist to, at least, get back to the same position as we were in when they took us from here.

By Mr. Cooper:

Q. Was there any assistance given to munition workers and families by the Patriotic Fund?—A. Since I have been back I have tried to make inquiries from every source, and I cannot find one single case, to my personal knowledge, where any assistance has been given from any source, Patriotic Fund or otherwise, to the wives and families of the mechanics who left this country.

By the Chairman:

Q. Putting it concretely, what you are asking for is that, in regard to the munition workers who went overseas as the result of the representations made in Canada by Mr. Barnes, of the British Government, you should receive the same as has been paid to the soldiers who went overseas, and that you should have had an opportunity of taking advantage of the Soldiers' Settlement Scheme in the same way and to the same extent as the returned soldier?—A. Yes.

Q. And if any further provisions of that kind are made for them, men like yourself should have the same privilege?—A. Yes. But, before I close my evidence, I would like to say this: that while my remarks cover the situation generally, there have been isolated cases, but not many, where some men have been fortunate enough to earn quite a considerable sum of money. Of course, those men we are not attempting to hold a brief for.

Q. You find among your men just the same condition as you find amongst the soldiers, all sorts of cases, varying considerably. Some men sacrificed everything, others sacrificed far less. It is stated that some, when they came back, were better off than when they went. You find every conceivable condition. I suppose the same is true of your class of men?—A. I do not think I should be labouring under a sense

[Mr. Christopher Copley.]