

Sir EUGENE Fiset: Then, Mr. Chairman, we will have two counsel, one acting for the Committee and one representing the Legion. If it so happens the Legion does not accept the offer, only one man will act.

The CHAIRMAN: The acceptance is a matter entirely with the Legion. I think it should be distinctly understood that the Legion shall suit themselves; and if they do not want counsel they will not be obliged to have him. For the time being perhaps a formal motion should not be adopted but the Legion should understand if they do decide to take advantage of this offer, some member of the Committee at a later date will move that counsel be appointed, and his fees paid by the Committee.

Hon. Mr. KING: Mr. Chairman, the other day in answering a question put by my hon. friend, Mr. McQuarrie, I feel that I fell into a trap when I stated all returned men would be permitted to present their grievances before this Committee. That, it will be readily understood, would be an impossibility, but my idea of the matter is that if it is the presentation of a case that affects a group, then the Committee will hear that evidence. I hope to withdraw my statement in that connection and thereby relieve the Committee of being burdened with innumerable individual cases.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: I do not think that the Committee wants to be placed in the position of a Court of Appeal.

The CHAIRMAN: I consider it is very important that the Committee make a public announcement to the effect that it does not intend to act as a Court of Appeal. I do not know just how much evidence the Committee will hear, but in any event there will be a vast amount. We ought to clearly state, through the medium of the press, that this Committee is not a Court of Appeal for the purpose of dealing with the cases of individual returned men. Parliament has not authorized it, nor does it intend that we shall be an appeal tribunal. Our instructions are to make recommendations with a view to modifying or amending the act in order to render justice to the returned soldiers generally, not to deal with the individual grievance. If that meets with the views of the Committee we ought to so state it.

General Fiset: It is understood that nothing will be done by this Committee until we have decided to have a meeting of the Joint Committee of the Senate and the House of Commons, and, Mr. Chairman, you are to take the necessary action to bring that matter to the fore.

Hon. Mr. MANION: I understand that the Senate meets on the 25th. Why not, as a simple act of courtesy to the Senate, meet on Thursday instead of Tuesday?

The CHAIRMAN: Very well. We will say that we will meet on Thursday.

Hon. Mr. MANION: That gives them a chance anyway. Let them know that we have held over for that purpose.

The CHAIRMAN: We will have to report to Parliament and ask Parliament, by way of an address to the Senate—I suppose that is the proper procedure—to ask them to join us in our deliberations.

General Fiset: I think the Clerk of the House could communicate, and the Minister, or the Prime Minister will take the necessary steps.

The Committee adjourned until Thursday, March 27th, at 11 a.m.