

9-10 GEORGE V, A. 1919

Having been in charge of the Franco-Belgian and Italian section of the Canadian Patriotic Fund in the district of Montreal since the beginning of the war I know them well. I have learned to like them and am very sorry to think of the situation they will have to face when the allocations are stopped.

And still they are Canadians at heart. Most of the children have been born in Canada and many of the mothers are Canadians. So in helping them the Government would not be pensioning foreigners but widows and orphans who are Canadians.

The number of these widows in my opinion will not exceed one hundred.

According to the new law on pensions now before the French Parliament in France the war widows will receive 800 francs a year and the children 300 francs. We have every reason to believe that the pensions of the Belgian and Italian Government will be about the same.

So a family composed of the widow and two children will receive only about \$22 a month.

With such a small pension you can judge of the hardships they will have to bear if the Government does not come generously to their help.

Thanking you for the interest you are showing to these widows and orphans and hoping that your efforts will meet with success I beg to remain.

Yours truly,

ALFRED TARUT,

Chairman.

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RESERVISTS' PENSIONS.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

OTTAWA, April 11, 1919.

DEAR MR. ROWELL,—As you are probably aware, the matter of granting a supplementary pension to the widows of British reservists resident in Canada and the widows of members of the Royal Air Force, who lost their lives during the war, was up before the Pension Committee a few days ago. It was reported in the press, and I have had several letters of strong endorsement.

I inclose herewith copy of a resolution passed by the Women's Canadian Club of Toronto, sent me by Mrs. Helen MacMurchy.

I sincerely trust that the Pensions Committee will see fit to recommend that Imperial widows and the widows of French, Belgian and Italians resident in Canada will receive financial recognition; if not, the case of these people after the war will be very grievous. At present the Canadian Patriotic Fund are carrying a number of such widows, although strictly speaking, our charter does not permit us to do so, as they are no longer dependents of men on active service.

I do not think the burden of granting a supplementary pension would be a heavy one, as from what I can learn there are not more than 300 to 350 Imperial widows and from 100 to 150 widows of the Allies, perhaps 500 in all, and would not entail an expense of more than \$150,000 to \$200,000 a year.

Unless the Canadian Government comes to the relief of this class, who were living in Canada prior to the war, and whose children were mostly born in Canada and who intend to remain in Canada, if they can subsist, there seems no other alternative than for them to be deported or for them to become a charge on charitable institutions of