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March 24th.32.

Right Honorable Arthur Meighen. Esq.
Senate Chamber.
Ottawa.

Dear Sir,-

Years ago, W.L. Belton of Neepawa, advised me that if I ever had anything to get straightened out at Ottawa, that I was to get in touch with you. Those were the days when you first entered the ring against John Crawford and was successful. It was later that Mr Belton told me to see you if necessary. The time has come now, and though it is not for myself that I ask your aid, yet I will appreciate what you do far more.

The widow of the late Fred Cooke # 86811 Gunner in the 5th Brigade C.F.A. deceased, is now up against it, so bad, that she is on the City Social Welfare. The Pension Tribunal in session June 23-1931 at Winnipeg, granted her application for pension, but the Chief Commission Counsel at Ottawa on Oct 20th appealed the decision and so far nothing has been done to help the widow in her need. There are two children, and she has received the small amount of insurance, but that has been used up in living expenses. In a letter, which is enclosed, you will see that there is need for action with the Veterans' Bureau at once.

Quoting from the report of the Tribunal at Winnipeg

Reasons,-

Man was severely wounded (see Ex.E.) Neurological Report of Dr G.S. Williams, 24.3.22, Ex.5, Ex.8, .B.p.c, exam, Dr Dey 21.2.23, and Ex.21. The above examinations establish that symptoms of ill health were recorded consistently many months before blood count was taken upon which diagnosis was made, and it is possible leukaemia might have been manifest or developing much earlier. The very summing up of the post mortem conclusion "a puzzle" - the only possibility seems to be acute leukaemia with absence of the usual lesions " indicates some doubt in the mind of the doctor who made the finding. He admitted this doubt in evidence at the hearing.

In view of the man's age at death - 36 years, the very definite evidence as to serious wounds and their serious results, of the absence of any suggestion as to possible cause of the condition resulting in death, of the doubt as evidenced by the wording of Dr Boyd, Pathologist for Winnipeg General Hospital and Manitoba Medical College, and lastly of the directions of section 73, we must infer that death was related to service.

I took the matter up with Hon T.G. Murphy, a personal friend of mine, he has done all he could, but lacking your experience he may not be able to act quick enough, so I am appealing to you for action on behalf of Mrs Cooke and her children.

Yours very truly

Joshua Hodgkinson

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