

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, ROOM 207,
WEDNESDAY, May 15, 1918.

The committee met at 3 o'clock, Hon. Mr. Rowell, chairman, presiding.

The CHAIRMAN: The question has arisen as to the latitude to be allowed witnesses in the matter of alterations of their evidence on revision.

Mr. NICKLE: I do not think there should be any variation of the evidence given unless the witness comes before the Committee and makes the alteration publicly. I rely on statements made here for the conclusions I may reach, and if my conclusions should be challenged I would then refer to the evidence to justify the opinion I had taken, and if there is going to be elimination from the evidence of material statements that may have influenced my judgment, I, as well as other members of the committee will find ourselves in a very embarrassing position.

The CHAIRMAN: The position taken by Mr. Nickle is the correct one. There should be no changes in the testimony unless the witness here publicly asks that the change should be made, and the committee agrees to the change being made, and the change appears as part of the record.

Dr. I. OLMSTEAD, sworn.

By the Chairman:

Q. How long have you been practising your profession, and where have you practiced it?—A. I graduated in 1886, and practiced in Hamilton and in hospital work in Philadelphia.

Q. You specialize in surgery or medicine?—A. Surgery.

Q. What medical societies or organizations are you a member of?—A. Ontario Medical, Canadian Medical, British Medical, Fellow of the American Surgical Association and Clinical Surgeons of Canada.

Q. How long have you known Col. Labatt?—A. I have known him a great many years, I could not tell how long. I should say probably 30 years.

Q. How long have you been his family physician?—A. I was his family physician from 1894, when I started to practice in Hamilton. I attended the family at that time. I was not his family physician for the last number of years, but was his family surgeon, you might say.

Q. Did you see him prior to his enlistment?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Were you with him?—A. Yes.

Q. Just tell us about that.—A. Well, we took a trip up the Temagami, he and his son and my son, both lads of about 12. We went about 60 miles up in the Temagami district. We left Temagami Station I think about the 1st of August. We got our guides and went up about 60 miles and fished about six days, when a telegram came to us saying Britain had declared war, and that they were asking for volunteers. We packed up at once and came down. We took about three days going up. Col. Labatt is a hard camper to go with. He is a horse to work and was at that time. When we came out we hurried to make as good time as we could, and we came out in a little over a day and a half, whereas it took us about three days to go in, and Col. Labatt packed over the portages about 100 pounds of dunnage, and I did not pack anything on our trip up. We were both more or less soft. He was ahead of me all the time.