

## APPENDIX No. 2

*By Mr. Cróynn:*

Q. You would extend it to the case of Canadians who enlisted in the various Imperial corps that were recruited here; Canadians went over under Canadian rates of pay, and in case they are killed, their widows are entitled only to the Imperial rates of pension?—A. I think they ought to receive it, somebody has to bear the burden.

Q. You agree that the dependents of all soldiers of the Allied forces who live in Canada should be paid on the same basis as the Canadian expeditionary forces?—A. Yes, they are fighting for Canada.

*By Mr. Nickle:*

Q. That is only so long as they continue to live in Canada?—A. Only so long as they continue to live in Canada. There is one other question, and that is a matter of administration. I have had a great deal to do in connection with a man who went in with a cheque that he stated was given to him by the Returned Soldiers' Association in Cambria, in Saskatchewan, for \$150. He cashed the cheque for \$150, and when the firm sent it in they found out that there is no such association at all in Saskatchewan. They know where the fellow is, and this firm is going to prosecute him. The man is a cripple and it means that if he is prosecuted he will probably get five years for it in a penitentiary. It will do no good to send a cripple to the penitentiary. Under the present arrangement this man is in receipt of a pension which was not enough for him to live on, and he tried to augment it by selling insurance. I was just trying to see if something could not be done, if arrangements could not be made in a case of that kind, whereby the pension could be attached, not for debt, but for fraud, in order to keep the man out of penitentiary. We have had quite a number of cases where board-mistresses have complained that men have skipped their board, sometimes for sums as large as \$50 or \$60, and we feel that a man like that is not entitled to much consideration at all.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. You think the law should be made so that the soldier's pension could be attached for living or board expenses, which he fails to pay?—A. I know this much that many of these boarding-house women are dependents of soldiers and they cannot afford to lose it.

Q. I did not know whether or not your suggestion was that we should do that?—A. I have had women coming to me and say, "I have trusted this fellow, he owes me \$50 and cannot pay it; I owe a grocery bill and I cannot afford to lose it." Now these men have pensions, and it is just a problem that some provision should be made by which I can keep that fellow, Muir, from going to the penitentiary, if some provision can be made by which we could give an assurance that he would pay it.

*By Mr. Nesbitt:*

Q. You want that pension assigned to you, till he pays the debt which is due?—A. I think in a case like that where it is clear fraud and robbery that the Pension Board ought to be empowered when it can be proven beyond all matter of doubt, to pay the money over.

*By Mr. Nickle:*

Q. What you are really arguing for is the compounding of a felony. If the Government is going to advance the money to save him from going to penitentiary, why should it be a crime on the part of an individual to do the same thing? It would be a most pernicious act?—A. What I want to get at is that there are a lot of fellows going around and giving the returned soldiers a bad name just through that very thing. I had the case of an officer who would not support his family. I got him up in my office, and the separation allowance people sent the cheque to me and I saw

[Mr. Norman Knight.]