



DEPARTMENT OF
SOLDIERS' CIVIL RE-ESTABLISHMENT

DEPUTY MINISTER'S OFFICE

O t t a w a ,
May 22nd, 1924.

Dear Sir Arthur Currie;

I recently received an inquiry from the United States Veterans' Bureau as to whether any provision was made in this country for the burial of indigent ex-soldiers of other than British nationality in national cemeteries. It appears that an Army regulation was issued in the United States under an Act of April 15th, 1920, which authorizes the burial in national cemeteries in that country of any citizen of the United States who served in the army or navy with any Government in the world's war with Germany and Austria and who died in the service or after honourable discharge therefrom. I enclose a copy of the regulation on this subject.

2. In writing to the United States Veterans' Bureau I have pointed out that in this country there are no national cemeteries so that it is not possible to reciprocate along quite the same lines. I stated however that the Last Post Fund would be prepared to provide honourable burial for any ex-member of the American Forces who has become a citizen of Canada should he die in indigent circumstances and his family require the assistance of this fund.

3. I raised the following question however. There are now numbers of ex-members of the Canadian and British Forces in the United States who have not become naturalized American citizens. There are also doubtless a number of citizens of the United States in Canada who have not taken out papers here. I suggested that it might be desirable to extend the provisions to those who served whether they had become naturalized or not if the circumstances seemed to demand it. I expect to be in Washington within the course of the next two or three weeks when I propose to discuss this question with the United States authorities.

4. Permit me to say how much I regretted the unfortunate situation which arose at the recent adjourned meeting of the Fund, and further, how much I appreciated personally, your decision not to withdraw from the presidency. I hope that a set of by-laws