

6-7 GEORGE V, A. 1916

-Q. What has Mr. Kidner to do in this connection?—A. He is the Vocational Secretary; he has charge of this educational work, and all the educational officers throughout the country will be under him, and through him under the commission.

*By Mr. Nickle:*

Q. Before you leave vocational training, who is to decide as to what vocation a man shall enter?—A. We are arranging for a vocational committee in every centre, which will be responsible to the Provincial Commission appointed in connection with the question of employment.

*By Mr. Chairman:*

Q. Who appointed the Provincial Commissions?—A. They were appointed by the Provincial Governments as a result of the conference held in Ottawa last October between the Federal and Provincial Governments, for the purpose of providing employment for the returning members of the Expeditionary Forces. There is a Commission in every Province.

Q. They are working in harmony with your Commission?—A. Yes, virtually as sub-committees of the Federal Commission.

*By Mr. Macdonell:*

Q. The plan indicated by you has three stages: first, that of the soldier pensioned before he comes to the convalescent home; then a series of treatments there, or a temporary residence in a convalescent home, during which he receives the elements of vocational instruction. And thirdly, before he will do any work, he adopts some vocational instruction, goes into a technical school or a vocational school, and fits himself for some trade?—A. The second and third points I agree with; but I do not quite understand the first one.

Q. The first one refers to the condition of the ordinary soldier when he is wounded and gets a pension?—A. No, sir, he does not get his pension until after he has received such treatment as can be given him to minimize his disability.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. He gets the pay of his rank?—A. Yes, but not his pension.

*By Mr. Macdonell:*

Q. Surely, if a man is injured, he gets his pension?—A. No, sir.

The CHAIRMAN: He would go into a convalescent home for treatment, during which time he still receives his pay as a soldier. After a month or two in the convalescent home if his injury has not disappeared, or he is not cured, he would be recommended for a pension according to the degree of his disability.

Mr. MACDONELL: He need not take the training if he does not wish to; he can take his pension. It would be optional with him.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, whether he went into a school or not.

*By Mr. Nickle:*

Q. As long as a man is in the convalescent home, he is still supposed to be in the service of the State, and if he recovers he is liable for further military service?—A. That is so in theory. But, in practice, only those men who are not likely at all to be able to continue military service are sent back to Canada.

Q. I am just speaking of the theory.—A. At first they were sending back some capable of returning to the front, but definite instructions have been issued that such men are to be kept for convalescent treatment in England, so that the country should not be put to the expense of bringing them across the Atlantic and taking them back again.

*By Mr. Macdonald:*

Q. When the Medical Board on the other side report that in their opinion men are not fit to fight they are returned to Canada?—A. Yes, that is the practice.

[Mr. Scammell.]