



CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF  
SOLDIERS' CIVIL RE-ESTABLISHMENT

IN YOUR REPLY REFER TO FILE NO.

O t t a w a ,  
April 29th, 1924.

Dear Mr. Hair;

I have your letter of the 26th instant and must congratulate you on the somewhat ingenious manner in which you have arrived at the figures quoted by you.

2. I cannot say anything regarding the burial costs of the Department of Militia & Defence. These may, or may not, have exceeded \$100. in each case. I doubt very much whether they reached anything like that sum.

3. With regard to the burials by this Department since the 1st April, 1918, you will note that the average cost has been just under \$80. each. You mention the cost of the headstone put up by the Imperial War Graves' Commission. This is a matter dealt with entirely by arrangement between the Dominions and the Imperial Government. Each Dominion contributed a certain amount for headstones in France, Australia, Canada and elsewhere. Whether 100 or 5,000. were erected in Canada would make no difference to the Canadian contribution, therefore I do not see where the Last Post Fund could have effected any saving in this regard had the work been turned over to you.

4. With regard to the burial reimbursements by the Board of Pension Commissioners, this is a matter of reimbursement entirely. The man dies and is buried by his friends. Days, weeks or months later a demand is made on the Board of Pension Commissioners for payment of last sickness and burial expenses. You will note that the reimbursement is towards the cost of sickness as well as burial with a limit of \$100.

5. You claim that you could have saved 35% of these expenditures, in other words that it would have cost the Board of Pension Commissioners \$65. per case instead of \$100. for the expenses of last sickness and burial and that it would have cost the D.S.C.R. \$52. per case instead of \$80. This contention is absurd.

6. The only way in which the Last Post Fund in Montreal has been able to keep expenses down as low as they have been is by reason of the fact that two bodies are buried in one grave. This cannot be done by the Government as a matter of policy and further, the other branches of the Fund are also finding it impossible. The