

11 GEORGE V, A. 1920

The CHAIRMAN: What is the amount you can give them?—A. \$450 is the maximum. It is all graded.

By Mr. Nesbitt:

Q. Have you any complaints in that class?—A. Not from the men getting the higher allowance. Sometimes the allowance is fifty or sixty, as the case may be, and they ask for an increase, and complain that it is not enough. It is all considered by the medical branch, and we sometimes have a conference with them.

By Mr. Redman:

Q. Is the \$450 allowance sufficient in these cases?—A. We have not had any complaints from the \$450 men.

By Mr. Clark:

Q. Is the \$450 paid where the attendant is the wife of the man?—A. We do not question whether he has a wife or not, we take the man as a human machine. What can he do and what can he not do?

By Mr. McCurdy:

Q. You do not question whether he has a helper or not?—A. No, we pay him according to his helplessness, and he may get his friends or his wife or pay an absolute outsider. The totally incapacitated man without a child gets \$1,350, and then of course the helpless allowance is given sometimes where a man is not a total disability.

By Mr. Redman:

Q. He may not get a hundred per cent but still he is helpless?—A. Yes, but as a matter of fact the disabilities are worked out in a peculiar way. I had a man who was 145 per cent disability, and he got eighty or ninety, but if he got the sum total of his disability he would get 145 per cent.

Q. I would like to ask Mr. Thompson how he proposes to save the \$600,000? It seems to me we should investigate that.—A. The organization is completed in England. We had, to start with, nearly \$120,000, and we saved nearly sixty, seventy or nearly eighty thousand dollars there. Instead of bringing people from Vancouver and far off districts, we are sending a doctor to the district. We have paid very heavy expenses bringing men from outlying districts and now we send the doctor there. We have postponed examinations from time to time and we have the doctors go to certain districts. I can give you a statement as to various details. We have been cutting out the visitors. We have visitors going out to inspect pensioners in different places, men who had an eye out, and the G.W.V.A. said to us in Calgary that they expected we would find the eye had grown in, and asked why we should send them to visit that sort of man. It was a very pertinent question and we cut that out. The railway fares and travelling expenses have been very heavy.

By Mr. McCurdy:

Q. What has been your experience with automobiles?—A. We are abolishing them all with the exception of one in each city.

By Mr. Redman:

Q. You are quite sure this will not interfere with your efficiency?—A. I think we will get as good if not better service. I will cite an extreme case, and that is Vancouver, where we bring them in from the west coast. It is quite a long journey, but we are establishing permanent offices at different places.

By Mr. Cooper:

Q. Is there to be an office left in Vancouver?—A. We are closing that office, because we are sending a medical man round to visit these men.

[Col. Thompson].