

11 GEORGE V, A. 1920

Q. What are the administration expenses?—A. I can give you the administration expenses, not by years, but by months, showing how it is going; in April, 1919, our salaries and contingencies, that covers everything other than pensions, we included travelling expenses of pensioners coming in for examination, etc., and the expenses in Canada were \$159,582.83, and in Great Britain \$10,936.92. Shall I give you for each month or for the peak-load?

By Mr. Nesbitt:

Q. Have you the figures for 1918?—A. I haven't it for 1918; I have just got it for April, up to March this year. Perhaps I might give you the peak-load; from \$159,000 it went up to \$206,000 odd in Canada, and to \$19,000 in Great Britain. That was for September of last year, approximately \$225,000. In February the total had gone down to \$149,000.

By the Chairman:

Q. That covers the same year?—A. Yes, we expect that the expenses this year up to March will be probably \$500,000 or \$600,000 less.

Q. And next year?—A. We think it will not be so much; it will never be so high as it was in September.

Q. The cause being?—A. The work of demobilization.

By Mr. Clark:

Q. You are estimating a considerable decrease each year in the future?—A. It will be about \$600,000 less this year than it was in 1918, starting from March.

By Mr. Power:

Q. Have you any idea what the percentage for administration is compared with the amount of expenditure for pensions, the amount that you pay out in administration?—A. I haven't got it worked out, but it is easily ascertainable.

Q. What is the percentage of the total cost?—A. I should say it is down to about 6 per cent.

By the Chairman:

Q. Then, Colonel, you have a statement as to the number of people who receive the pensions, which you were discussing with me. I think the committee might like to hear that, the total number of individuals receiving pensions?—A. There are in Canada, and in other countries, including England, 175,960 people receiving money. There are not that number of pension cheques going out, but there are that number of people receiving pensions, men, women and children, widows and their children, orphans, disabled soldiers, their wives—

By Mr. Power:

Q. Do you include all the people receiving money in that statement?—take the case where a widow is receiving money and she has a certain number of children as well, are the children included in that total?—A. That is the total number of souls receiving pension allowances.

By the Chairman:

Q. Would you just give the details showing how those figures are made up?—A. Disabled soldiers, 7,950; wives of disabled soldiers, 27,649; children of disabled soldiers, 41,283, and then the dependents of fallen soldiers, including widows, mothers, fathers, grandparents, orphans, brothers and sisters and orphan brothers and sisters, but excluding children, 17,725. Then the children of widows of soldiers number 17,299.

By Mr. Nesbitt:

Q. Have you the totally disabled soldiers?—A. The number of disabled soldiers will increase as they come out of the hospital. The S.C.R. will probably be able to [Col. Thompson].