

APPENDIX No. 4

NOTE.—It was pointed out by the Pension Commissioners, that satisfactory arrangements had been made with the American Red Cross, which has Branches all over the United States, to assist Canadian pensioners resident in that country.

Suggestion (i)—“That arrangements be made that the Bank of Montreal, New York, should cash at par in the United States cheques of Pensioners resident in the United States.”

NOTE.—At the present time the Pension Board is remitting funds to over 14,000 pensioners resident outside of Canada. Over two-thirds of these pensioners reside in Great Britain; nearly thirty per cent are in the United States; the balance being scattered over some twenty different countries. Under the existing law these pensions are all payable in Canadian funds. Where the Canadian dollar is at a premium, as in Great Britain, the pensioner reaps the benefit, where it is at a discount, as in the United States, he suffers a loss.

Suggestion (j)—“Representations were made on behalf of Imperial pensioners resident in Canada regarding the administration and payment of their pensions by the Canadian Board of Pension Commissioners.”

NOTE.—This work has been undertaken at the request and on the instructions of the Imperial Government. It is a continuation, with certain enlargements, of an arrangement made some twelve years ago. Your Committee feels that it is a matter over which it has no control, but as the Imperial authorities supervise the entire affair and can be appealed to in case of dissatisfaction that it would be ungracious for Canada to refuse to act.

A further point urged on behalf of those in receipt of Imperial pensions for long service was that if such a man enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force his service therein did not entitle him to a larger long service pension although similar service in the British Expeditionary Force and with certain other overseas forces would result in such an increase. Your Committee believes this also is a matter beyond its jurisdiction as the decision complained of is that of the Imperial Government.

Suggestion (k)—“Former members of the Canadian Permanent Forces in receipt of long service pensions have laid a similar complaint before the Committee, viz.: that enlistment and service in the Canadian Expeditionary Force do not entitle them to any increase in their long service pensions unless they have again been taken on the strength of the Permanent Force as now reorganized.”

Your Committee makes no recommendation on this point; to grant such an increase would be in effect to reward the ex-permanent man for performing the same duties as those undertaken by every other volunteer in the Canadian Army.

PART II.—RE-ESTABLISHMENT.

The Order of Reference on this branch authorized the Committee to continue the enquiries instituted by the Committee on Re-establishment last session into such matters as might call for further investigation.

I. GENERAL CASH GRATUITIES.

It is the strong conviction of your Committee that the first duty of the country is to the dependents of those who have fallen, and to the men disabled by service. In considering the claims of such as these the inclination throughout this enquiry has been towards an ample measure of generosity. It is not putting it too strongly to say that your Committee treated as secondary the added cost to the country which its recommendations in this connection may entail.

When, however, the question arises of compensating those who have returned alive and well, for their efforts and privations, even if such services could be calcu-