

11 GEORGE V, A. 1920

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: If you will give the name and address we will have the case investigated.

Mr. NIGHTINGALE: I can give you his address later. He is a member of our association. I would respectfully urge that more prompt action be taken when a man is admitted to the hospital. There is no reason why a man should lie in a hospital for six or seven months before his pay reaches him. Then with respect to men undergoing vocational training it is pretty nearly impossible for a man to live on \$60 a month. I have investigated the case of J. Masson Murphy who is taking training there and he is living in one of the cheapest and I might say indecent parts of the city, not of his own free will and accord, but because it is cheap and our association is assisting him as a result of his inability to live on the allowance made him. I respectfully urge that the rate of pay and allowance for students be raised to the American scale, as that has been raised from \$100 to \$120 a month. There is another question. These American veterans feel that they should take their vocational training in the United States. They have been requested to come to Canada. Some have been away for years, and are living near the colleges and institutions of the United States. They feel they have been away long enough, and they would like you to reconsider their cases so that they could take up their training in their own country. Canadians are proud of Canadian institutions, and they are proud of their institutions. And there they have raised the rates. I was born and raised under the British flag, and I am proud of it. These are the questions I wish to bring before you—the vocational training, medical treatment, and a general increase in pensions. I am practically through now, but I want to impress upon you the fact that we have not in our ranks what are known as bums. We do not have men coming and saying they do not want to work; but they come and say they cannot get their full pensions because of the loss on exchange, and that they cannot find satisfactory employment, compatible with their disabilities. The other day, on a street car, I saw a young lad with an empty sleeve get on with a lot of magazines under his arm. I said: "What is this; what are you doing?" I have orders to look into such cases. He said: "My pension is delayed, and I am not getting enough anyway. I have lost this arm, and I cannot make enough to keep me." You must remember that Chicago is the third largest German city in the world. When the veterans go about with their decorations they are told by the Germans and Austrians—I won't call them Americans—that their war record does not amount to a damn. Excuse that language, but that is what they are told. These veterans are the victims of what I call organized commercialism. Now, something can be done. You must agree with me that our suggestions are all within the bounds of reason. We are not asking for \$800,000,000, or for something that you cannot give. But we know it is within your power to increase those pensions, to take up the matter of vocational training and see that those boys do not lie in the hospitals for months without pay and allowance. On behalf of the association which I represent, I thank you for your interest and for the polite hearing you have given me this morning. The words I have spoken are from the heart of a veteran. I am sincere in what I say. I did not come to make a detailed statement, because I did not think you wanted detail. You want a general statement which might help you to meet our suggestions and to come to some agreement whereby the veterans in the United States can be properly re-established. Over there, there seems to be a misconception of the land scheme. It is pretty hard for the average Canadian who is connected with the American organization to convince those men that the land scheme of Canada is a land colonization scheme in general. We cannot get it into their heads. They are under the impression that the veterans receive an allotment of land, and while they do not want to come over here to take that land, they cannot get anything from the American Government. The American Government does not recognize them at all. When they go and ask for assistance they are told, "My dear man, you served with a foreign army." We are supposed to be

[Mr. Nightingale].