

It must be admitted that the Premier (according to Press reports), made a very favourable impression upon his audiences throughout Western Canada, due, no doubt, to a generous reference to various Orders-in-Council, and a still more generous use of huge figures representing monies stated to have been allocated by the Cabinet for the re-establishment of the returned soldier. It is suggested, however, that a review of the Orders-in-Council affecting returned men, will convince unbiassed citizens that in one or two important respects **the Government has not yet fulfilled its obvious duty to the ex-member of the C.E.F.**

ORDER-IN-COUNCIL CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.

During the period, August, 1914, to April 1st, 1918, approximately 30,000 men—all Volunteers—were discharged from the C.E.F. with a clothing allowance of \$8.00 in summer and \$13.00 in winter, a ridiculously inadequate allowance—yet notwithstanding the inability of men so discharged to re-clothe themselves, either in summer or winter, with the pittances allowed by the Government, it did not occur to the Minister of Militia to make any recommendation for the granting of a more reasonable allowance. It fell to the three soldier members of the Repatriation Committee—members of the G.W.V.A.—to forcibly impress the Cabinet with the need for an increased clothing allowance. It was recommended that at least \$50.00—not an extravagant amount—be provided for the purpose of re-clothing a man on discharge. However, **the Government considered \$50.00 too much** and substituted an allowance of \$35.00—winter and summer—as an adequate provision for civilian clothing, in spite of the fact that the retail prices of clothing had risen **at least 300% to 400%** during the war period.

As an example of gross discrimination against the men who joined up early in the war, it should be noted that the Order-in-Council was made operative—**not from the beginning** of the war—**but from the 1st April, 1918, only**, thereby giving the benefit of the increased allowances to all those discharged from the C.E.F. subsequent to that date (including all M.S.A. enlistments), **but actually penalising each and every one of the 30,000 Volunteers who were discharged prior to the 1st April, 1918**, with the miserable allowances of \$8.00 in summer and \$13.00 in winter.

It is no excuse for the Government to claim that clothing was not quite so costly when these 30,000 men were discharged, **because the allowances of \$8.00 and \$13.00 never were sufficient at any time in the history of Canada**, and it is the duty of the Government of this Dominion to remedy this