

April 30th 1924

E.H. Scammell Esqr
Asst. Deputy Minister S.C.R.
Ottawa. Ont.

Dear Mr Scammell,

I thank you for the compliment of 'ingenuity' you pay me, as also for the kindly criticism and advice tendered, with regard to what you term ~~an~~ 'an extravagant and misleading statement' made by me in my annual Report.

I regret that you should have received the latter impression, though I cannot personally concur in it, and am prepared to stand by my original statement.

Your own statement, that "the reason our costs were kept so low in Montreal is owing to the fact that we bury two in a grave" defeats its own end, and elucidates your error, when I tell you that had we only buried one in a grave, we would still be \$5.00 below the maximum estimate allowed by us for that purpose, as the graves so far, have only cost us \$20.00 and we go as high as \$25.00 including digging.

Your references to the I.W.G.C. Headstone, and the manner of 're-imbusement' from the Pensions Department are too circumfluent to discuss in detail here, but when I speak of costs in this subject, I do not speak of it in parts, but as an entirety from "A" to "Z" including the marking of the grave - which latter is even more essential than the funereal part, and I repeat most emphatically, that if the whole subject had been placed in our hands in the early part of the war, I am convinced we would have saved 35% per capita.

If we were to discuss Montreal alone as it affected government costs, I venture, the result would not be very good reading.

Perhaps, if I put my personal interests before that of my Cause and my Country, I would be a little more discreet in just what points in my Reports I emphasise, but whatever my position in the future may be, as either Officer or Member of this Society, I shall endeavour to express myself in accordance with the dictates of Truth as it presents itself to me.

With kind regards,

Believe me, very sincerely

Dominion Secretary-Treasurer
Last Post Fund, of Canada