

## APPENDIX No. 2

decent wage for a man that cannot do anything. I think that overcomes the difficulty of paying the money to a nurse, or paying to a wife, \$300 I think it is, for nursing the man, and there would be no more money expended because the higher rate of pension that you pay to the higher ranks would be taken from them and put on to the private, and augment it up to the one scale.

*By Mr. Nickle:*

Q. You think that computation of yours is sound? Have you worked out that computation so as to be able to say that it would not increase the expenditure?—A. It might, sir, but what then? You are giving a square deal to the soldier.

Q. But there is an increase in the expenditure?—A. Of course there are more in the ranks than there is among the officers.

Mr. CRONYN: I think we should have a return from the board on that point.

The WITNESS: There is a question about the earning capacity of a soldier, that the pension should be arranged having regard to his earning capacity. I do not think that would be workable, because owing to the vocational training a man's earning capacity has been increased, and I think it should be based upon the disability of the soldier—100 per cent if he is unable to carry on any work, and a private soldier should be given \$1,000, which, if he had a wife and child, would make the amount \$100 a month. If he were a single man it would come to \$83.33 a month, and for an officer it would be the same.

*By Mr. Nickle:*

Q. If he had six or seven children?—A. \$100 a year for each child. It is only very small—\$8 a month, I think, for each child. In the case of officers, as a rule they have private incomes. A colonel is probably better off now than he was before he enlisted owing to the money he has received, but a private is being only paid for the service rendered to the Crown and to the country. An officer has his responsibilities; whilst he is holding these responsible positions he is receiving pay and allowances of an officer. Once he enters into civilian life he is on the same scale as a private, and in a democratic country such as this I do think we should have this class distinction amongst the civilian population. We must have it for discipline whilst serving in the army, and while an officer is serving and responsible he receives the pay and allowance of an officer, which is a long way more than \$1.10 a day paid a private, or \$1.50 a day which is paid a sergeant. That answers the question which was asked yesterday about the responsibilities of an officer.

Q. What would you say as to the contention of some officers that they went overseas on the distinct understanding that if they suffered disability they were to obtain a pension according to a certain scale?—A. I do not know whether that is the case. As a first contingent man I may say we went away and did not know whether we were going to receive separation allowance, or anything.

Q. Assuming that was the case, what would you say?—A. Had the person who gave the assurance the authority to give it?

Q. Assume he had authority?—A. That could be overcome on patriotic ground I think. I do not think the officers would object. The officers I have spoken to feel the same.

Q. Suppose an officer comes and says: "I have a contractual relationship with the Government by which they agreed to give me a pension on a certain scale," and the statement was made by those who had authority to make it?—A. Was that in writing?

Q. Yes.—A. If it were in writing I do not think it should be broken, but the Government have broken their promises. I went away and I was to receive a certain amount of money, and I do not receive it now.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Would you explain just what the organization that you represent is? You are on the committee of the Great War Veterans, and I understand you also represent