

APPENDIX No. 2

Q. Are you still secretary of the Great War Veterans Association?—A. I will be, sir, till the 30th of next month.

By Mr. Nesbitt:

Q. When you say "equality," you mean equality of amount?—A. As to rank. Under the present system you have a different scale of pension for officers and men, and under the other scheme, you would have a maximum and a minimum for all according to the degree of disability. In regard to this question of equality of pensions, it is felt by the men that—I may illustrate their views by describing a cartoon in *Jack Canuck*, a week or so ago, of which I am reminded, where Mr. Nickle was exhibited in front of Flavelle and as telling that gentleman that he was as good as any knowall that ever lived. The man in the ranks feels that his service was just as self-sacrificing as that of any of the officers. For instance, take the officers overseas, some of them never earned a dollar in their life, "Dad" kept them from the time they were born, but they are officers, and good officers, full of pluck and skill, but there are men in the ranks who made thousands of dollars before they went over. There is no reason why an officer should get more pension than any other man. I have pointed out that the Government made certain promises in the first place, certain posters were posted up to induce officers to go, and it was explained that if the officer was wholly incapacitated so much pension would be given to him. That might stand in the way, but from what I have known of officers, particularly Canadian officers that I have met they are just as favourable to equality of pensions as the man in the ranks. Major Redman, who is here, is one of the advocates of that proposition.

By Hon. Mr. McCurdy:

Q. On what basis do you propose equality?—A. That one shall receive just the same as the other, that there be one pension for all ranks.

Q. On what scale?—A. That the pensions be related to the service to the State, and that there be no difference in the quality of the service.

Q. I quite understand that no officer would object to that if the scale were the scale under which he entered the service, but do you mean to tell me that he is favourable if it is on a different scale. I only want to get the information?—A. From what I know of the officers in Canada, there are many officers who feel they should not be drawing more pension for disability they have incurred than the man in the ranks, because the officers know that the men sacrifice and suffer just as much as he, and the Canadian officers do not, I think, believe in capitalizing any services they may render any more than the men in the ranks.

By Mr. Nesbitt:

Q. Leaving aside the officers' opinions, let us know what you think of the responsibility of the officer in the fighting line as against the man in the ranks?—A. In this war the old idea of one man being worth more than another is being wiped away. As a matter of fact, the officer has perhaps more important responsibilities to shoulder than the men, but he does not go to make money out of it. I admit that the officer's responsibility is more serious, at the same time, the danger of the man in the ranks is greater than that of the officer. The point I want to make is this that the men who come to me do not see why one man should benefit more because of his injury than the other man does.

By Mr. Redman:

Q. Your idea is that no attention whatever should be paid to his previous occupation?—A. I do not think you understand what I mean yet. I believe that the man's pre-war occupation should be taken into account. Supposing a man has a good education and he goes at work that pays better than the labouring man, he is entitled to the benefit of that, but what I wanted is to give the labouring man a chance and

[Mr. Norman Knight.]