

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

HOUSE OF COMMONS, ROOM 497,

May 21, 1942.

The Special Committee on Canteen Funds met this day at 10.30 o'clock a.m. The Chairman, Mr. W. R. Macdonald, presided.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, we have Colonel de Lalanne with us again to-day. Colonel de Lalanne is President of the Regimental Funds Board. I do not think there is anything on the record as to just what that board is, how it is constituted, or what its functions are, and I thought that Colonel de Lalanne might explain that to us before he gives his evidence to-day. I might also say that unfortunately I will have to go to another meeting shortly after 12 o'clock and Mr. Blanchette is here and he has been kind enough to agree to take the chair when I leave.

Now, is there any matter which you wish to bring before the meeting before we call Colonel de Lalanne? There is just one matter I would like to bring to the attention of the committee, and it has to do with two bills which were passed respecting canteen funds. One bill was passed in 1925 and the other bill was passed in 1928. Mr. Dixon informs me that both these bills are out of print, and if the committee approves I would suggest that the bills be added as an appendix to the report of this committee meeting.

Is there anything further that any member of the committee wishes to bring before the committee?

Mr. CASTLEDEN: Mr. Chairman, in looking over the reports from the various provinces in pages 34 and 35 I notice that British Columbia has placed on record an eleven-year summary ending March 31, 1937, which gives a fairly comprehensive view of the number of applications made and how they were treated. I see the British Columbia fund is now depleted. There is some record as to how it was expended. I was wondering whether or not we could get a similar report from the other provinces in regard to that expenditure?

The CHAIRMAN: Probably Mr. Dixon could give the committee some information with respect to that.

Mr. MARSHALL: I think that matter could very well be left until Mr. Dixon appears before the committee, because there is a rather extensive report here in this copy of the minutes of proceedings over the signature of Mr. Dixon; so I really believe that that could be left until we have finished with Colonel de Lalanne.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: I am not indicating that this be brought up now; it is only for future reference.

The CHAIRMAN: I think Mr. Castleden's suggestion is that if we could obtain that information now we would have it before Mr. Dixon gives his evidence, and I wonder if that information is available, Mr. Dixon?

Mr. DIXON: I will endeavour to consolidate it from the annual reports which are sent in each year to the minister. I think the old reports are available and I will consolidate a similar report.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: Would it be possible for this committee to have a copy of the report of the commission regarding the canteen funds in Saskatchewan. It is a rather unfortunate thing that happened there and people want to know