

APPENDIX No. 6

needs, but those you should not be obliged to express; we should know in advance what your needs are; what you require, and not wait until we are asked to meet your wishes. Such are my own feelings and sentiments towards you, and I know that in so speaking I am only translating the feelings and sentiments of this Committee.

We have among us Mr. Myers, the representative of the Dominion Executive of the Amputations Association of Canada, and I will ask him to address you.

Mr. R. MYERS: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I must express the appreciation first of all of the Association, which I am honoured at this moment to represent, for the many kind words of your Chairman. It is an inspiration to us to hear you speak that way, and I knew as I sat here that you are sincere in this. Now, we decided some years ago to hold a convention in Ottawa about this time. In Vancouver we were having a convention, and following the report of the last Parliamentary Committee we found that legislation had been introduced which was dealing with the question of pensions, and the continuance of the bonus. We felt at the time that we ought to get, in some manner, an expression of opinion from the public of this country as to what their attitude would be in Parliament's desire to deal with the returned soldier, so we laid plans for a campaign which we called a Publicity Campaign. We are merely a small organization representing men who have lost a limb or limbs or complete eyesight, and we felt that in any request that we should make, any definite request that we should make of the Parliament of Canada, we should be sure as to our ground. So we inaugurated a Publicity Campaign. We raised the funds for this campaign from our own ranks. We went to ourselves and each of us in a small way contributed for the purpose of carrying on this campaign. Now, down in Toronto, by the fact that our headquarters were there, we had to carry the campaign on from there, but we came to the decision that we would not dictate the policy of the different parts of Canada, because whatever decision we arrived at we wanted it to be representative of the entire country, and rather than give them any particular lead we felt that it would be fairer to everybody to allow them to go their own course, but along certain lines.

It had been suggested to us that we carry on a national campaign of large magnitude, and in fact there were people who were ready to underwrite a campaign for a very large amount of money, but we decided after feeling out opinion that this would not be a wise course, inasmuch as we felt that there was enough chaos and so much getting back to normal after the war that it would not do at all to arouse public sentiment or opinion as far as we were concerned; we felt that it was our duty as returned soldiers to try in some way to make a settlement with the country. We figured that to be our duty; we felt that the public of this country wanted to know exactly where they were going to get off in this matter so to find out exactly where we stood we carried on a campaign of publicity in our own individual way, by letter and by representation. We have approached hundreds of public bodies throughout this country; we have circularized every municipality in this country; as you know we circularized every member of Parliament; we approached church and social organizations; we approached national organizations and let me say that in not one single instance were our requests refused at all. Our requests were simply these, and we are here for one purpose only, just one. We have come to the decision that we would be satisfied—that if the present rate of pension at \$600 per annum for a totally disabled man, plus a bonus of \$300 making \$900, were made the permanent minimum basic award I venture to express the opinion, ladies and gentlemen, that should this meet with your approval, and should you decide in our favour, as far as the disabled men of this country are concerned, they would be satisfied.