

APPENDIX No. 4

want to be associated and they were a little afraid their representative might fall in with him and they did not at all agree with Mr. Flynn's tactics, they do not want any trouble; they desire to come here presenting views that are within the bounds of reason. At the present time in the United States the cost of living is approximately 20, 25 and 30 per cent higher than in Canada. The cost of living there is abnormally high at the present time. You can't get a plate of pork and beans for less than 50 cents. Our disabled and pensioned men have lost down to 18 cents on the dollar on their pension by reason of the rate of exchange, and we have had the most appalling distress during the late winter and early spring. We feel it very much and especially has that been the case with the widows and children of pensioners. Our association has been constantly called on to assist them in their straits. This was done by means of collections which were taken up, and that money of course came from the pockets of the men. I have a request that pensions be increased generally, and I am instructed to request that the increase shall be at the rate of \$1 per one per cent of the disability.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: That is your suggestion?

Mr. NIGHTINGALE: Yes, sir, that is our first suggestion.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Do you ask an increase of \$1 or that the pension be increased to \$1 per one per cent of disability.

Mr. NIGHTINGALE: That it be increased to \$1 for each per cent of disability.

Mr. COOPER: Might I ask where you come from and what organization you represent? Does it cover the United States or is it just from Chicago or New York? Where is the headquarters of your organization?

Mr. NIGHTINGALE: I have all the information with reference to our organization here but did not wish to take up the time of the Committee with it. We have approximately seventeen posts in this organization of the American Volunteers of the Canadian Expeditionary Forces, and we are affiliated with the B. W. V. of the U.S.A. and the G. W. V. A. of Canada. Our headquarters are at Chicago, Ill. We have a membership of twenty thousand and three other associations in existence, the Maple Leaf Club and the Canadian War Veterans' Association.

In regard to the total disability pension, our suggestion is that the allowance for attendance in the case of total disability be \$500 per year to compensate the attendant when such attendant is necessary.

We also consider that the inequality of pensions should be reconsidered and abolished. We contend that regardless of rank our bodies are all of the same value.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: That is the difference between the officers and men?

Mr. NIGHTINGALE: Yes. Now, in regard to medical treatment of our men, American volunteers of Canadian Expeditionary Forces by an arrangement with the American Government receive medical assistance in United States hospitals and pay and allowances while receiving the same. We have no trouble whatever in getting that treatment in the hospital. Immediately upon making his case known, any of our men are put in the hospital. There is no delay, but the trouble is that although they are taken into the hospital they lie there for four or six months before any pay and allowances come. The result is that there is poverty and distress in the families of these men. I have investigated the cases of many of them and I can give you details of them showing the distress caused by this delay. I have before me the case of Mr. Snyder, who has a wife and two children. I was called upon to go down to their home and found them living in abject misery and poverty. This man had undergone a very serious operation and was right up against it.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Will you give me his name and address?

Mr. NIGHTINGALE: I did not come here to give a detailed statement of the various cases, but I have cited his case as an instance.