

The following comments are made by the Medical Superintendent of the Military Hospitals Commission:—

"Eleven of these were heavy drinkers, but the condition was directly due to alcohol in only five of the eleven. In the other six of the eleven, the mental condition itself was probably responsible for drinking.

The total roll of returned insane men is not yet complete, insanity, feeble mindedness and specific diseases of the nervous system taken together, but not including epilepsy make up about 2 per cent of all returned invalids. Relatively speaking, of the returned soldiers suffering from nervous or mental disability there are very few cases traceable directly to alcoholism.

Faithfully yours,

(Sgd.) Alfred Thompson."

It may be assumed that less than 300 cases of insanity have been returned so far to Canada since the beginning of the war.

B.—Venereal Disease.

(a) While it is true that no one cause contributes more strongly to venereal disease than indulgence in drink, the statements made with regard to the prevalence of venereal disease in the Canadian troops which are used to bolster up the general charges made against the liquor trade in Great Britain are all characterized by the same gross overstatement and unfair use of figures. For instance, on page 47 a quotation is given from a speech given by Col. Sir Hamar Greenwood in Parliament on April 23, 1917, to the effect that in fourteen months 7,000 Canadians had undergone treatment for venereal disease from one of the three Canadian camps in Britain. This statement appears in another form on another page of the pamphlet as follows: "The Government has given us figures for the army at home last year and they are 43 per 1,000. There are 7,000 cases in one Canadian camp alone." It will be noticed that the length of time, fourteen months, in which the alleged number of cases occur, is omitted, and that no statement is made as to the number of thousands of Canadian troops which had passed through that camp in the course of fourteen months without venereal disease. It is regretted that accurate figures as to the incidence of venereal disease among Canadians in Britain and France are not available in Canada, but, speaking generally, they are about the same for Canadian troops in England and France as in Canada. For instance in the month of January, 1917, the percentage due to venereal disease of the total sickness among the troops in Canada was 1.8 which is as high as in England.

(b) The situation in Canada may be stated as follows:—

Total number of recruits C.E.F. to	
March 31, 1917	406,209
Total cases venereal disease admitted	
in Canada in same period	10,232
Percentage of venereal disease cases to	
number of recruits	2.5

That is in every 1,000 recruits enlisted 25 developed venereal disease in nearly three years, or about 8 per annum.

From these figures it is fair to conclude as follows:—

In civil life the 1,000 recruits may be said to represent a population of about 4,000 made up as follows:—

Unmarried men	500
Married men	500
Wives	500
Children, 5 per family	2,500
Total	4 000

A civil population of 4,000, if incidence of venereal disease were the same as for the 1,000 men in the C.E.F. which is taken as the unit, would then have 8 cases of venereal disease in the year, or twenty-five in three years period. There is no doubt that the actual incidence in civil life, particularly in villages, towns or cities is far in excess of these figures, although no figures from civil sources are available, the disease not being registerable under civil authority.

4. It is submitted, please, that the above criticisms on the character of the pamphlet in question are fair and represent the general unreliability of the pamphlet as a whole. If I may be permitted to express an opinion based upon my personal knowledge of the situation among the Canadian troops in France and Britain as regards alcoholism and venereal disease it would be that the circulation of statements such as fill the pamphlet in question, among the people of Canada is most undesirable, and should be prevented by any measures open to the authorities, having regard to the interests both of the troops themselves and of the Canadian public.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sdg.) J. T. Fotheringham,

Surgeon-General,

D.M.S. Invalids.

Reference is made in this report to certain information in respect of which inquiry has been made in Great Britain. In addition to that, other messages bearing on the subject have been despatched, to which no reply has yet been received. The replies will be expedited as much as possible, and when they are received a further statement on the subject will be made.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

Copies of orders in council referring to officers reverting to lower rank in order to proceed to the front.—Sir Edward Kemp.

QUESTIONS.

(Questions answered orally are indicated by asterisks).

MR. G. A. DILLON.

* Mr. DELISLE:

1. Is Mr. G. A. Dillon an employee of the Government?

2. If so, since what date has he been employed?

3. What salary does he receive and what are his duties?

4. Did he pass a Civil Service Examination?

Mr. DOHERTY:

1. Yes.

2. January 4, 1912.