

EVIDENCE

May 16, 1952.

11:00 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, we have a quorum. I find myself a little in the position of some clergymen in regard to the problem of front seats. This is a large room and there is some difficulty in hearing, especially if there is conversation going on. I think it would be to our advantage to sit as close to the witness as you can.

Now, we have arranged to hear a delegation from the Canadian Non-Pensioned Veterans' Widows Association, and also one from the Federation of British Canadian Veterans of Canada this morning; and, in addition to that if we have a little time—and I think we will have—I have taken advantage of the presence in Ottawa of Dr. Wallace Wilson to ask him to come before the committee and give us some of the story of what they are doing in the matter of geriatrics and the rehabilitation of old veterans, and of the experiments which have been carried on under his direction in British Columbia. You will recall that I did promise the committee on a former occasion that I would try to get him here, and he is here now.

I think with the approval of the committee I shall ask, first of all, the ladies representing the Canadian Non-Pensioned Veterans' Widows to read their presentation. The presentation will be made by Mrs. E. Darville.

Mrs. E. DARVILLE, (President, Canadian Non-Pensioned Veterans' Widows): Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I believe that you have copies of the resolutions in front of you, each of you.

The CHAIRMAN: They are being distributed now.

Mrs. DARVILLE: Mr. Chairman: Gentlemen, a delegation from the Canadian Non-Pensioned Veterans' Widows Council appeared before the special parliamentary committee on Veterans Affairs in April 1951. We presented our brief and resolutions to said committee. We had hoped that the allowance would be raised to sixty dollars (\$60.00) per month and be granted to veterans widows in receipt of the allowance, but nothing was done. The cost-of-living is at the highest point in history. The \$40.00 just purchases half as much as it did when the allowance was first granted. We are aware that there is an assistance fund, but so few qualify for it, we are submitting the following resolutions, trusting they meet with your approval and that action will be taken at this session of parliament.

Resolutions:

1. That the widows allowance now payable under the War Veterans Allowance Act be raised to sixty dollars (\$60.00) per month.

2. That all non-pensioned veterans widows whose late husbands served in England with the Candian forces during the first Great War be considered under the War Veterans Allowance Act.

We had hoped these widows would be granted the allowance. Their men enlisted in good faith and served where they were most needed, yet *these* widows are disqualified.

3. That veterans widows in receipt of the allowance receive free medical care.