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neighbourhood of a week—he certainly made up for all the absences by his conscientious staying at the office and sticking to the work and seeing that it was done. Neither Col. Labatt or myself or Major Todd consider ourselves as office boys, that we should keep hours from 9 till 5 or 9 to 6. We are supposed to be controlling the policy of the organization, and there is a staff to carry on the work under our direction. It is not always an absolute necessity for three members of the board to be there the same as the office boys.

Q. It is quite possible the three members of the Commission would be absent from the board ten days when matters of importance would be dealt with by the staff in their absence?—A. In this case when Major Todd and myself were in England, it was quite possible. If Col. Labatt took ill it would be possible for no member of the board to be present.

*By Mr. Nickle:*

Q. As a matter of administration do you not think it would have been wiser, when a pension was awarded to one of the Commissioners, that it should have been awarded when the Commissioners were at home and after they had carefully looked into the matter, particularly when you have an expert like Major Todd on the board. Don't you think it would have been wiser and obviated this embarrassing situation?—A. Well, the pension was first granted, I understand, in November, 1917, Major Todd was here.

Q. Major Todd made the remark that you left it altogether to your medical advisers and did not assume any responsibility.—A. It sifts down to the action of the medical advisers, and the medical advisers only. If they say a man is 100 per cent disabled, what would you suggest for the Commissioners to do?

Q. Are you asking me a question?—A. Yes.

Q. You want an answer?—A. Yes.

Q. I think Major Todd and you should have sat on it, Major Todd being a medical man. If you ask me a question I will give you an answer. I think in this case that Major Todd being an expert, and the pension being awarded to one of the Commissioners, it would have been advisable for Major Todd to have reviewed the medical evidence. That is my frank opinion and I would not have given it if you had not asked for it. In regard to an answer you gave, you said, "Is that the answer you want?" I do not want any answer except the answer that is a fact. A member of Parliament has made a charge and we thought we should have tried to clear it up.—A. You ask me a question and I answered it the first time, and you said that was not the answer you wanted, and then I looked at the file, and you came and turned over to a certain date, and asked me if I was here then.

Q. After many pleasant months with you, I do not want to differ with you on the Committee.—A. I can safely say I was not here at that time, because I was 4,000 miles away, and more.

The CHAIRMAN: As I understand it, all the Pension Commissioners were here in November when the pension was granted.

Major TODD: Yes.

Witness retired.