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SLIPSHOD METHODS CAUSE OF CHARGES IN PENSIONS CASES

Royal Commissioners Tell
Chief Medical Adviser
There Should be Uniformity
Among Unit Directors
and Pensions Headquarters.

(Canadian Press Despatch.)
Ottawa, Sept. 7.—"Slipshod work in the unit, and slipshod at headquarters," was the manner in which Dr. W. C. Arnold, chief medical adviser to the board of pension commissioners, giving evidence today before the royal commission investigating certain charges made against the pension commissioners by the G. W. V. A., characterized certain decisions which he intimated had been the cause of all the trouble and resulted in the charges being made by the G. W. V. A.

Dr. Arnold had asked permission to make a statement to the commission regarding the circumstances leading up to the passing of the famous minute of

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Sept. 29, 1921, before he proceeded to deal with one of the specific cases of a pensioner, Thomas M. Carpin, whose pension had been discontinued because it was said the aggravation of a pre-war disability had ceased, and about which the G. W. V. A. had put up a fight as indicating a change of policy on the part of the pension commissioners.

In the case of Carpin, it was shown that decision had been given under misapprehension, one part of the man's file indicating apparently that the aggravation of pre-war disability had only been incurred in England, whereas the fact was the man had served in France. It

was claimed that the decision would have been different but for imperfect checking up of the file.

No Uniformity.

Dr. Arnold in his statement said that one of the greatest difficulties of the board of pension commissioners had been to get uniformity of practice between the medical directors. Medicine was not an exact science, he urged, and Colonel Ralston, chairman of the royal commission, interposed that the doctor had his sympathy as he, too, was engaged in a profession which was equally inexact. Colonel Ralston also observed that Dr. Arnold did not need to emphasize the difficulty of getting uniformity, seeing that every unit director except one seemed to have differed from headquarters.

Colonel Ralston sought to summarize the situation:

"You have nine medical advisers dealing with 500 cases a day; you found there was no uniformity as to amount of reductions in pensions through aggravation having ceased; therefore, different men would receive different treatment according to the interpretation of medical advisers. The legal opinion put it up to the medical advisers to determine regarding amount of aggravation; then you agree to disregard the ruling. You found afterwards that one or two doctors did not act upon this decision. Yet no action was taken to ensure uniformity."

"I would not plead greenness if I were you," remarked Colonel Ralston, and when Dr. Arnold disclaimed such intention, the chairman further remarked "but you used the word."

Later Colonel Ralston urged: "Doctor, it is surely not your idea of administration that on a question of general ruling it should be left to individual doctors to decide for themselves?"

Colonel Dubuc, another member of the commission, then summarized as follows:

"You found there was no uniformity; you decided there should be. You asked for legal ruling to establish uniformity and when you got it you decided to ignore it, and you carry on the lack of uniformity by issuing no instructions at all. As chief medical adviser you were responsible for uniformity."

Further urged Colonel Dubuc, and Dr. Arnold remarked he did not think it good policy to send out copies of the minute without a covering letter saying it had been decided to ignore the interpretation.

Leggett Case.

The chairman of the commission suggested to Dr. Arnold that while he had some of his medical advisers around it might be opportune to have them together for a heart to heart talk, to which the witness grimly replied that they had already had several.

As to the Private Leggett case which arose in Toronto and was said to have originated the cause of dispute between the G. W. V. A. and the pension commissioners, Dr. Arnold agreed with his predecessor as chief medical adviser, Col. Bellon, now of the Toronto unit, that though aggravation had ceased, the disability remaining, the pension must continue. But Dr. Bond had been one of those who contended for the legal dic-

tum and according to Colonel Ralston, "had thrown a monkey wrench into the machinery."

C. Grant McNeil resumed his evidence regarding certain files just prior to adjournment for lunch.

CIVIL SERVANTS NOT WORRYING

In England Work About 34
Hours a Week and Have
Long Holidays.

London, Aug. 21.—(Associated Press by Mail).—In England, as in most countries, it is very difficult to get people to work as hard for government departments as for business houses. That is the conclusion forced upon a special committee which has been trying to find out what is wrong with the Civil Service.

Before the war the Civil Service employed 285,000 people at a cost of £29,500,000. Now it employs 325,000 at a cost of £27,400,000. Civil servants, it is said, usually start work in London at 10 o'clock in the morning, take three quarters of an hour for lunch and knock off promptly at five o'clock except on Saturdays, when they quit at 1.30. Their hours of work during the week thus average about thirty-four. Their annual holidays range from three weeks to eight weeks, according to the way they are graded.

The committee sees no reason why the hours of civil servants should not be the same as those of ordinary clerks in civil employ, nor why they should get more than two or three weeks vacation, as is customary in business houses.

"It is clear," the committee says, "that if the hours of work were increased to a moderate extent it would be possible to reduce the staffs and so effect a reduction in the cost of the service."

That is obvious, but no government has succeeded in doing it yet and meanwhile the staffs of the various government departments are not worrying over the prospect of having to work longer hours and getting shorter holidays.

OMIT FROM PRAYER CURSES ON WICKED

Episcopal Committee Would
Permit Deletion of Such
Passages from Psalter
Readings.

Portland, Ore., Sept. 8.—If members of the commission on prayer book revision have their views accepted, Episcopalians rarely will have read to them from the psalter Scriptural passages that are imprecatory in nature, that call for fire, vengeance or a curse upon enemies of the righteous.

This was indicated in statements made by Dr. Charles L. Eliot, rector of Grace Church, New York, who has been selected to present the report to the House of Deputies of the Episcopal Church.

"The whole attempt of the commission," he said, "is that of bringing the prayer book into accord with the best truth and reality we know."

Not in all cases of psalter revisions will the psalmists' pleas for punishment for adversaries be eliminated. In some instances the objectionable portions are merely to be set off by spaces so they may be omitted at the discretion of the minister.

Typical verses of the psalter which the revisionists think may well be neglected are such as these:

"Let their eyes be blinded, that they see not; and ever bow down their backs."

"Pour out thine indignation upon them."

"Let them fall from one wickedness into another."

BROTHERS FIGHT OVER UMBRELLA; ONE IS KILLED

Passaic, N. J., Sept. 8.—Charles Monego, thirty-four years old, a printer of 56 Ackerman street, Clifton, N. J., is dead here following a quarrel with his brother John.

The brothers had been on good terms and on Monday Charles called at John's home and borrowed an umbrella from John's wife. After the shower Charles returned with the umbrella. John was at home then and Charles upbraided him for his failure to visit their parents.

John resented the remarks of Charles and, it is said, the two brothers engaged in a fist fight. Neighbors called the police.

Sergeant Varettoni of the Clifton police department responded and found Charles dead in the dining room. John was hysterical and was taken to St. Mary's hospital in Passaic, where he was unconscious for four hours. Then he was taken to local police headquarters.

Dr. E. Marini, a neighboring physician, reported that Charles had died of heart disease. There were several black and blue marks on Charles' body, according to the authorities.

CAN MAKE TRY AT SEA LIFE

Sweden Has Unique Plan Relative to Its Navy.

Stockholm, Aug. 18.—(A. P. by mail).—A new help to Swedish lads considering their life occupation, and probably a unique thing in the world, is a system recently inaugurated whereby young men are allowed to try out service in the Swedish royal navy voluntarily and without being under oath, in order to find out whether they are called to the life of a naval officer or not.

College youths sixteen or seventeen years of age who think they may want to enter the navy after graduation go aboard battleships and smaller naval craft as cadets under instruction. They mess with the crew and work under the same conditions as seamen, except that they pay for their meals and may pick up their bags and go ashore for good whenever they please. They not only get a practical knowledge of the duties of ordinary seamen, but they may also post the watch, serve as coxswains of the ship's boats, and in general test out their abilities to command.

The battleship Queen Victoria, the ship's service, and several smaller vessels are providing this unusual opportunity for young men, who may in the end discover that they are better fitted to become statesmen than naval officers. Thus this vocational innovation is beneficial to the navy as well as to the youth, who is given a chance to avoid making a mistake.

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CHILE OPPOSED TO ARMAMENTS

Santiago, Chile, Aug. 14.—(A. P. by mail).—The government of Chile has taken definite steps to bring about the inclusion of the question of the limitation of naval and land armaments throughout South America in the programme of the Pan-American conference to be held in this city next March. Formal announcement has been made to the committee on disarmament of the


League of Nations, at Paris, by Manuel Rivas Vicuña, Chilean delegate, to the effect that Chile was proceeding to this end.

The Chilean foreign office, in this connection, calls attention again to the agreement with Argentina made twenty years ago in which the limitation of armaments was a feature. This convention set forth, among other things, that, in order to set at rest any cause of inquietude or suspicion, both Argentina and Chile would abstain from purchasing new warships and would not accept

warships already ordered; that both would reduce existing naval forces and not increase them for a period of five years without eighteen months notice to the other party to the convention, and that neither party would sell a warship to any power having a pending question with the other party.

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