

APPENDIX No. 3

COMMUNICATIONS AND STATEMENTS.

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Department of
Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment.

OTTAWA, 3rd April, 1919.

Dear Mr. ROWELL:—

I am directed by Sir James Lougheed to forward to you a copy of a memorandum which I addressed to him on the 29th ultimo, regarding totally disabled pensioners.

Yours faithfully,

E. H. SCAMMELL,
Assistant Deputy Minister.

The Hon. N. W. ROWELL, K.C.,
President of the Privy Council,
Ottawa.

DEPARTMENT OF SOLDIERS' CIVIL RE-ESTABLISHMENT.

OTTAWA, March 29, 1919.

The Honourable the Minister:—

In view of the consideration which is now being given to the subject of pensions by the special Committee of Parliament, I desire to bring to your notice a situation which should, I submit, be dealt with by that Committee.

Owing to the fact that the term "total disability" is now given a technical meaning there may be, and often is, a decided difference between a man with a total disability and a totally disabled man. In the table of disabilities issued by the Board of Pension Commissioners there are numerous injuries which entitle a man to 100 per cent pension, known as a total "disability" pension. In some of these the man is totally disabled, in other words cannot earn anything, while in the others his earning capacity may not be diminished at all. To illustrate—a man who has been disabled by being shot through the spine is entitled to 100 per cent pension. If he is bed-ridden he may be given an additional \$300 per year, making a total of \$900 per year. If, however, he is not bedridden, though he cannot work at all he is entitled only to \$600. On the other hand a man who has lost all his fingers or all but one finger on both hands, or a man who has lost his both hands or any two extremities, is entitled to the same pension. The result is that some men are drawing total disability pensions, who are able to earn as much as before enlistment, while others are drawing exactly the same rate who are unable to work at all.

The problem of incurables is likely to be a serious one for this Department unless adequate provision is made whereby these men can reside at their homes under the care of their relatives.

A totally disabled man with a wife and two children is entitled to \$89 per month while he is undergoing treatment by this Department, if he lives in an institution, or \$113 per month, if he is residing at his own home. The same man when he is pensioned would receive \$80 per month, while living at his own home, unless he is bed-ridden, or otherwise requires the services of an attendant, when he would receive \$105. The result is that it has been necessary for this Department either to carry a number of men on strength for pay and allowances or to place them in a hospital. The latter is a much more expensive procedure and should be avoided unless absolutely necessary.

The number of men who are totally disabled is not likely to be large, and I know that it is your wish that adequate provision should be made for them and their families. I, therefore, suggest that there should be special provision made regarding pension for these men. According to the present regulations I have shown that a totally dis-