

Sir EDWARD KEMP: Not many. It has been estimated in the press that the average income was about \$100 per month, but, roughly speaking, it would be about \$95 per month. These soldiers are the very flower of the country, and it is heartrending to think that so many of them are being killed or wounded and that the country is going through such a severe trial in these terrible losses. The single man is obliged to leave half of his pay with the Minister of Finance and he receives interest upon it. That accumulates while he is away, and a good many million dollars are accumulating in that manner. The private soldier who is married assigns \$15 to his wife or his family.

Mr. NESBITT: The married man receives a separation allowance of \$20, which is in excess of what the single man gets, is it not?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: Yes.

Mr. NESBITT: The allowance for subsistence and clothing would be equal to about \$1 per day. That is why I say that the unmarried soldier should be paid \$1.50 per day and field allowance of ten cents, or \$1.60 per day. That, with subsistence and clothing, would amount to \$2.60 per day. The married man receives a separation allowance of \$20 per month. As a country, we have nothing whatever to do with the Patriotic Fund. That fund is supported by voluntary contributions, and the married soldier should not have to receive assistance from a voluntary fund. The separation allowance should be increased, and the people should not be called upon to give these voluntary contributions, because those contributions are not equally distributed. Some men pay a great deal more in proportion to their wealth than others do. In the county from which I come, the county council and the towns that are separated from the county assess so many mills on the dollar and pay over the amount collected to the Patriotic Fund, so that in that case the contributions are equally distributed. The income of the married man, counting his pay, clothing, subsistence, separation allowance and Patriotic Fund contribution may come to \$95 per month. I have not figured it up, but the amount depends upon what he gets from the Patriotic Fund. If he is a married man without children, he gets less from the Patriotic Fund than if he has children, and if he has a number of children, the amount he receives from the

[Mr. Nesbitt.]

Patriotic Fund is fairly large. The mere fact that, even if we paid the soldier \$100 a day, we could not compensate him for risking his life for his country does not affect the principle. We should pay him a sufficient amount so that he will be able to have something saved up by the time he returns. The minister says that a certain amount is held back on which interest is paid. That interest, however, does not mount up very quickly. I have had occasion to take up cases of back pay of men who have been killed, and the paymaster general has been very courteous in looking after those matters, but the back pay coming to the relatives of those men has never amounted to more than \$85 or \$86, and that is not very much. If the soldier were paid fifty cents a day allowance while he was in Europe and a dollar a day held back, he would have quite an amount coming to him when he returned to this country, and I am pleased to say that the bulk of our troops will return. In that way they will have something to start with when they come home and will be able to retain their pride in themselves. There is no reason why the country cannot pay that amount, and I believe the country would be perfectly willing to pay it.

Mr. OLIVER: While I do not know that it is quite in order to discuss this question and I will not delay the House for any time on it, I just wish to repeat what I have said so often before in this House, that the time has come when the separation allowance to the dependents of our soldiers should be increased so that there would not be any necessity of the the work of the Patriotic Fund as is the case at present. We know that the cost of living has increased since the beginning of the war. We have raised the salaries of our employees at Ottawa, and in many cases working men have had their wages increased, and justly so, because of the increase in the cost of living. We are, however, paying the same separation allowance to-day as we did when the war began, and we are placing the same dependence upon the Patriotic Fund as we did then. The time has come when we should decide on an increase in the allowance to our soldiers' dependents that will meet the increased cost of living and what is now drawn by them regularly from the Patriotic Fund.

Mr. KYTE: There appears to be some laxity in the militia office in London with respect to the assignments of soldiers' pay. There have come to my notice several cases in which men who have enlisted for over-