

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

HOUSE OF COMMONS, ROOM 277

May 19, 1942.

The Select Committee on Canteen Funds met at 10.30 a.m. o'clock. The Chairman, Mr. W. R. Macdonald, presided.

The CHAIRMAN: Order, gentlemen. Since our last meeting I have received several letters. I received one from Mr. J. C. G. Herwig, Assistant General Secretary of the Canadian Legion. He would like to make representations, through the committee, on behalf of the Legion and could do so before the convention or preferably after the convention of the Legion. I think it would be the pleasure of the committee that he be heard after the convention.

Mr. ISNOR: What are the dates of the convention, Mr. Chairman? It is at Winnipeg, is it not?

The CHAIRMAN: The convention is next week, the 24th to the 27th of May, at Winnipeg. The committee will be sitting after that. I also received a communication from Mr. Jules J. Ferry, past president of the Ontario Command of the Canadian Legion with respect to Major A. C. Lewis, who is Secretary Treasurer of the Ontario Provincial Board of Trustees. I think he has had very wide experience, and I would suggest that he be called also at a later date, if that would meet with the approval of the committee. Does the committee agree?

Mr. CASTLEDEN: Might I suggest that it might be a good idea to have the matter of canteen funds brought before the annual convention of the B.E.S.L. It is on their agenda, is it?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, it is on their agenda.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: And a request coming from this committee for suggestions?

The CHAIRMAN: The representatives of the Legion would then, after recommendations have been passed by the convention, appear before this committee with the recommendations. I mentioned Major A. C. Lewis. He has had wide experience. He could give the committee valuable information as to how the money was expended in Ontario, and if it meets with the approval of the committee we could call him at a later date.

Some Hon. MEMBERS: Agreed.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, at the last meeting Colonel de Lalanne was giving certain evidence and he was about to prepare a statement of the funds which have been received. The Colonel has prepared that statement and I suggest that it be filed with the committee and the clerk will distribute copies of the statement to you. We will have Colonel Lalanne come before us at a later date and give us any information we desire with regard to that statement. I would suggest that Colonel Lalanne give us further evidence to-day, but Colonel Deacon who has just returned from Britain is present to-day and we should call him as the first witness because he will not be with us again for probably a week or ten days; so if it meets with the pleasure of the committee we could file the statement and ask Colonel Deacon to address the committee and at a later date Colonel Lalanne will return.

COLONEL E. A. DEACON, Director of Auxiliary Services, Called.

By the Chairman:

Q. Colonel Deacon, would you be kind enough first of all to explain to the committee where you have been outside of Canada. I understand you