

I appeared before two years ago. The present committee is almost identical with two or three exceptions, with the one we had at that time. I hope the work of this committee will be attended with as good results as that of the committee of 1928. I want to say, also, that the labours of this committee were and still are greatly appreciated by the men throughout the country. Permit me, sir, to add, on behalf of those whom I have the honour to represent, our very sincere and grateful thanks to our old Corps Commander, General Sir Arthur Currie, for coming here and giving us the benefit of his knowledge and observations.

Generally speaking, I wish to say that the suggestions he made are very much in line with what we are thinking. Before going any farther, I wish to explain whom I have the honour to represent. I appear before you as the representative of organized soldiers of Canada; the soldier organizations, for the first time in the history of Canada, have come together, and they now appear before your committee as a single body. We have worked very hard during the last few months in coming to an agreement in the formation of a reasonable and sane program which, during the sittings you will hold, we will have the honour and privilege of presenting to you in detail.

I therefore represent the Army and Navy Veterans of Canada; the Amputations' Association of the Great War; the Canadian Pensioners' Association; the Sir Arthur Pearson Club for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors; and the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League, of which last named organization I have the honour to be Dominion President.

On this occasion, I wish to express the thanks and appreciation of the Legion for the valuable contributions of these other associations. We have attempted to draw up our program so as to save time in this Committee; we are prepared to speak briefly and to the point on each subject, hoping to be able to make known our views for your consideration and for the quick action of the House and the Senate. We rely immensely upon this Session of Parliament to remove any cause for dissatisfaction, whether it be imaginary or real. I want to make it clear that those of us who represent the organized soldiers of Canada, and thereby, I think, the unorganized soldiers, realize fully the gravity of the present situation. We appreciate to what the Pension Bill may lead, and I wish the gentlemen of the Committee to know that we have not forgotten that point. We have only attempted to cover such cases and points as the circumstances of the men, women and children absolutely demand, and I trust that after you have heard them you will be able to agree with me to that extent. I would say that there are large numbers of men, women and children who feel that they, for one reason or another have demands which have not been satisfied. I want to go on record, however, as saying that in my opinion perhaps a good portion of these cases of dissatisfaction are based upon the fact that insufficient attention has been paid during the last twelve years, or since the end of the war, to satisfying their claims, but in the majority of cases they have had every possible attention and care and have been heard with all due consideration.

I must account in fairness to the gentlemen on these commissions and boards who have heard the cases; I do not wish to appear as a critic, and certainly not as a destructive critic. The press of affairs coming before these boards and commissions in such large numbers, and the ramifications of each individual case have undoubtedly created a very, very heavy burden of work for all these gentlemen. We realize that; but nevertheless there remains, in our opinion, a great deal of dissatisfaction to the effect that insufficient care has been given in the preparation of cases, that they have not been heard in sufficient detail, and finally when the case was turned down and an adverse decision given, the party concerned was not told in detail where he had fallen short in his case. I believe that the welfare of the whole country demands that when a man puts up a case in good faith his feelings of dissatisfaction should be dissipated by careful