

C. Vaughan, asst. to third vice-president, Toronto, Ont.; Mr. A. J. Hills, asst. to executive, Toronto, Ont.; Mr. R. P. Ormsby, asst. to secretary, Toronto, Ont.; Mr. C. E. Friend, general auditor, Winnipeg, Man.; Mr. J. D. Morton, asst. comptroller, Toronto, Ont.; Mr. J. R. Cameron, asst. general manager, Winnipeg, Man.; Mr. D. R. Campbell, asst. general manager, Vancouver, B. C.; Mr. A. E. Warren, asst. to general manager, Winnipeg, Man.; Mr. A. E. Wilcox, general superintendent, Winnipeg, Man.; Mr. W. A. Browne, general superintendent, Edmonton, Alta.; Mr. W. A. Kingsland, general superintendent, Montreal, Que.; Mr. D. Crombie, general superintendent, Toronto, Ont.; Mr. J. Bain, general superintendent, Halifax, N.S.; Mr. E. F. Seixas, general electric lines, etc., St. Catharines, Ont.

London, England, offices, Orient House, New Broad street, London, E.C.; Mr. R. M. Horne-Payne, director representing the company in Europe; Mr. H. W. Harding, local secretary.

BOARD OF PENSION COMMISSIONERS.

MR. SUTHERLAND:

1. What time have each of the Pension Commissioners given to the work of the Board during the year 1917?

2. How many officials are at present employed on the clerical and administrative staff of the Commission?

3. What is the total cost per annum in salaries for Commission and Staff?

4. How many complaints have been received by the Commission on behalf of members of the Canadian Forces or their dependents against amounts for disability allowed by the Board during the year 1917?

5. Is there any appeal from the decision of the Board regarding percentage of disability allowed?

6. Is it the intention of the Government to place the Commission under the control of the Minister of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment?

MR. HUGH CLARK (Parliamentary Secretary):

1. Commander J. K. L. Ross has devoted the bulk of his time to the work of the Board of Pension Commissioners. He accepts no remuneration from the Government, his monthly salary cheque being returned regularly to the Receiver General. When unavoidably absent on account of his financial interests, his private secretary, whom he retains at no expense to the Government, keeps him informed daily as to pension matters. Colonel R. H. Labatt and Major J. L. Todd have devoted their entire time to the duties of their office.

2. The clerical and administrative staff of the board consists of the following: Head

[Mr. J. D. Reid.]

office, Ottawa, 437; district offices, 86; London, England, 58. In the case of London, England, pension matters overseas in the year 1917 were administered by the Pensions and Claims Board, the Secretary to the High Commissioner, and the Chief Paymaster, each of whom undertook certain duties in connection with the award of pensions. Commencing April 1, 1918, the Board of Pension Commissioners will take over this work, having established a branch in London with a staff of thirty-eight persons, replacing the fifty-eight persons previously employed by the above bodies.

3. The total cost of salaries for Commission and staff is as follows: Head office, \$339,114.50; district offices, \$79,338; London, England, \$62,900. Under the new arrangement in London, England, the estimated cost to the British Branch of the Board of Pension Commissioners is \$38,000 for salaries.

4. Approximately 20,000 pensions were awarded during 1917. Complaints from disability pensioners or their dependents to the number of 828 have been received during this period. Each case received careful consideration and adjustment where necessary. It was found, however, that in the great majority of cases the complaint originated in an insufficient understanding of the Pension Regulations on the part of the person complaining. In a proportion of the cases medical re-examination was ordered, the result being that the opinion of the previous Medical Board was concurred in in practically all cases.

5. Section 5 of the Pension Regulations as amended to October 22, 1917, states as follows:

There shall be no appeals from the decisions of the Commission, but every applicant for a pension, gratuity, allowance or assistance may present his or her case either personally or by counsel before the full Commission sitting for the purpose of hearing the complaints of those who may have been dissatisfied with the decisions given in the ordinary course of administration.

6. Section 5 of Order in Council P.C. 432 reads as follows:

"The duties and powers of the Minister of Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment shall extend to and include the following:—"

(a) Hospitals, Convalescent Homes, Sanatoria, for C. E. F.

(b) Vocational education and training.

(c) Provision of employment.

(d) All matters relating to pensions for the persons aforesaid;

Provided that nothing herein shall interfere with or affect the powers of authority of the Board of Pension Commissioners.