

THURSDAY, October 23, 1919.

The Special Committee on Bill 10, An Act to amend the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment Act, met at 10 p.m., the Chairman, Hon. Mr. Calder, presiding.

Mr. T. O. Cox, recalled.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. You are still under oath?—A. Yes.

Q. You sent a letter to Mr. Cloutier in reference to the amount paid on gratuities, and your estimate of the amount still required to be paid, in order to clean up the provisions now made for gratuities. What is your total estimate of the amount required?—A. Total expenditure to carry out the regulations, including the amount of post-discharge pay which has already been paid, is \$153,686,557.98, according to what I have been able to estimate to the best of my ability from vague facts.

Q. How many days is it since you gave your last evidence?—A. About ten days.

Q. At that time you estimated the total amount required to be what?—A. \$134,000,000, with a lee-way of five millions each way.

Q. How do you account for this difference in your estimate?—A. We estimated our previous figures on estimates. The present figures are based on telegraphic and cable returns. We previously omitted to cover for the men who had been struck off the strength of the C.E.F., but were on the strength of the S.C.R. for treatment, with full pay and allowances, and, as such, are not entitled to draw the gratuity until they are struck off the Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment. We also omitted to estimate the adjustment of officers seconded to the Flying Corps who were only qualified by recent regulations, and we also did not have available any statistics to enable us to decide which accounts had been partially paid and still had some gratuity due them to complete the total amount due.

Q. You have been obtaining this other information since you last gave evidence?—A. Yes.

Q. And in your judgment your present estimate is approximately correct?—A. I believe that this estimate, sir, is as close as it is humanly possible to get, in my opinion.

Q. I suppose you would qualify that "with the information now available?"—A. With the information available or obtainable.

Q. At the present time?—A. Yes.

*By Mr. Morphy:*

Q. Is it in any way possible that the estimate would be to any extent less than the one you have given?—A. It is possible that it might be a couple of millions less, but I do not think it is probable. My information is that this is very close.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Might it be over your estimate?—A. It might be over my estimate, but I am not in a position to go any closer than I have. I submitted a complete basis as to how my estimate was arrived at. I averaged, as was proved from statistics, that the majority of men who had been overseas drew five months' gratuity.

[Mr. T. O. Cox.]