

11 GEORGE V, A. 1920

the Secretary as to what witnesses we will call before us. If we do that we will, I think, shorten the work of the Committee and systematize it and we will know right from the start just what we are going to do or try to do. I would suggest, therefore, Mr. Chairman, that we get around the table here and take this correspondence, upon some of which we will want to call evidence, and some of which we will not want to consider. We have a great many applications to appear before this Committee and the Secretary should ascertain from each applicant just what information he has for us and to what subject it refers, because all of us who have sat on the Pension Committee and on the Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment Committee know that a great deal of evidence was given to the Committee, and expense incurred in connection therewith, that did not enlighten us very much on the question before us.

Mr. PARDEE: I move that the members of this Committee meet by themselves this morning to discuss the matters referred to by Mr. Nesbitt and to decide what evidence we will call, and the course of procedure we will adopt.

Mr. NESBITT: I will second the motion.

Mr. PARDEE: If it is true that there is a gentleman from the States who, desires to be heard and who is going away we might take that into consideration.

The CHAIRMAN: There is Mr. Nightingale here from Chicago, who desires to be heard. His letter is before us, and that is one of the matters with which we will have to deal. I do not suppose our discussion will last any great length of time, and we may be able to re-assemble as a public meeting and proceed, if we determine to hear Mr. Nightingale.

Motion carried and the Committee went into private session.

COMMITTEE ROOM 435,

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

WEDNESDAY, April 14, 1920.

The Special Committee on Pensions and Soldiers Civil Re-establishment met at 10 o'clock, Mr. E. W. Nesbitt, acting chairman, presiding.

Other members present:—Messieurs Arthurs, Béland, Brien, Caldwell, Clark, Cooper, Cronyn, Edwards, Green, MacNutt, McGibbon, McLean, Morphy, Peck, Power, Redman, Savard, Sutherland and Turgeon,—20.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: The chairman did not discover until after the meeting adjourned yesterday that he had an engagement this morning which he had to keep and asked me to take his place. The meeting adjourned yesterday for the purpose of giving Mr. Nightingale, who has his proposition in writing, an opportunity of being here this morning because he was here. He has come from a distance and wanted to get away to-day. If it is your wish we will now hear Mr. Nightingale.

EVIDENCE.

Mr. E. G. NIGHTINGALE, Chicago, called and sworn, said: Honourable members of Dominion Parliament, I am here from a distance and do not wish unnecessarily to take up the time of the Committee, but there are three questions that I wish to bring before you on behalf of the American volunteers in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. These gentlemen, as you know, enlisted through the Canada Recruiting Mission and, in justice to myself, I must tell you I am a Canadian. I was protesting against coming here representing the American boys as I am a Canadian, but they thought that an American would not be very kindly received here after they had become fully acquainted with the conduct of a certain Harry J. Flynn, with whom they did not