

stations in Canada to which the soldier wished to go, but we had to carry out this documentation to which I have referred. The procedure was laid down in Canada in respect to this additional documentation, and no doubt it was necessary. I am under the impression that if the armistice had not come upon us suddenly as it did, and if demobilization had not been upon us, we could have simplified the matter of documentation; but we were in the midst of demobilization and there was not time to argue the matter out between the Minister of Militia and myself and the officers under us in both cases. So we had to proceed with this rather heavy duty. The procedure which was laid down by Canada involved preparation Overseas of the following ten documents, in addition to those already in existence:

1. Proceedings of Final Medical Board (showing medical condition of man immediately prior to demobilization).
2. Dental Certificate (showing dental condition).
3. Proceedings on Discharge (A cover for all documents bearing endorsement of reasons for discharge and acknowledgment by soldier of receipt of discharge certificate).
4. Discharge Certificate (enclosed in special envelope—to be signed in Canada and handed to soldier).
5. Copy of Discharge Certificate (retained for record purposes).
6. Dispersal Certificate (in triplicate—particulars of address of soldier after demobilization, where he wants War Gratuity sent, etc.).
7. Equipment and Clothing Statement (Receipt by soldier for all items of clothing and equipment taken to Canada).
8. Last Pay Certificate (showing state of soldier's pay account up to end of current month).
9. Duplicate Last Pay Certificate.
10. War Service Gratuity Form (declaration by soldier of essential facts required for purposes of this grant).

These are all in addition to the documents and papers that the man had to have when he came from Canada overseas. Two of these documents to which I have referred had to be prepared in duplicate and two in triplicate. There may also have accumulated overseas sundry documents which may be as many as 20, to cover such items as:

- Regimental and Company Conduct Sheets.
- Particulars of family.
- Particulars of marriage.
- Proficiency Certificates.
- Statement of Service of Warrant Officers and N.C.O's.
- Birth Certificate.
- Proceedings of Courts of Inquiry.

Canada, I venture to think, possesses probably the most complete system of documentation of all the Allies; and whilst, as

I say, we might have simplified the system if we had had the time, yet there was not an opportunity to do it. In order to give the House some idea of how long it takes to get through with this documentation I had a calculation made and I discovered that if the work for the whole force were to be done by one man who devoted eight hours a day to it, it would take him sixty-eight years to carry it out. This would not include the time required to complete preparation of last pay certificates and to adjust pay accounts, which would double the period. Nor does it include time occupied in getting men on parade, or time spent on parade, for registering name and full regimental particulars. This also would double the time.

Taking into account the 268,000 Canadian soldiers overseas at the armistice there would have to be answered in the duplicate and triplicate forms 100,710,357 questions, and the number of signatures which would be required would be 2,219,512. So that there was the necessity of keeping a regular staff of officers and clerks in England to do this work,—men who were entitled to return to Canada just as much as the soldiers they are working for, and when this is considered home gentlemen will understand this was quite a task. In that connection I want to pay a tribute to these men who have stayed in England, and who have carried on this work for the purpose of getting their comrades back to Canada—those who have had no extra pay but who have had to be appealed to on patriotic grounds to continue at work, the army of clerks, cooks, and men of that character who are doing duty in England, and are doing it faithfully, those who have had to keep all the camps going, and perform all the labour in connection therewith,—all have done their work well and have done it very faithfully too.

Now I would like to speak for a few moments in reference to the Headquarters Staff in London. The appointment of an overseas minister was a unique procedure, and I do not venture to express any opinion at the moment as to its advisability. It was the programme that was undertaken by the Prime Minister, and it was thought, no doubt, by him that the responsibility in connection with this tremendous work should be thrown upon the shoulders of some one person who would look after it and see that it went all right. Well, it was a pretty stiff task for the fellow who undertook the work. The powers of