

## APPENDIX No. 2

Q. Could you tell from looking at the record and finding out the time the pension was granted which members of the board passed on it?—A. I did not see it myself. There is only one other member of the board besides Col. Labatt. That is Major Todd.

Q. Would it be Col. Labatt himself who passed on his own pension?—A. I have not looked at the file. I think the date is October. I think I was here. I might have been out of town that day. I would have to refer to my diary to see whether I was in Ottawa on that particular day.

MAJOR TODD: I knew Col. Labatt's claim for pension was going through, and since he was one of my colleagues, I specifically abstained from taking part in the matter at all. We have every confidence in our medical advisers and the matter was left to them entirely and decided by them. The signature which is there is Mr. Ross' signature, put on the file, as was explained to you in evidence, by a clerk who is there for that purpose. The signature that gave the pension in this case, the responsible man, is Col. Belton.

Mr. NICKLE: I do not know why the Chairman of the Commission cannot give his own evidence.

WITNESS: I am looking at the date, 27th November, 1917.

*By Mr. Nickle:*

Q. Look at March.—A. 27th March, 1918, myself and Major Todd were in England on pension business.

Q. The question I asked was in regard to the 4th of April.—A. On the 4th of April myself and Major Todd were both in Great Britain on Pension business. Is that an answer?

Q. If it is the fact?—A. I am telling you the facts.

*By Mr. Sutherland:*

Q. You have stated that Col. Labatt paid very close attention to the work of the board. Has he been absent for any long period?—A. To my knowledge I would say that Col. Labatt has not been absent for any long period from Ottawa, with the one exception when he and I made a trip from Ottawa to Victoria and back on Pension matters.

Q. What would you call a long absence?—A. I do not think Col. Labatt has been away, as I recollect, for more than a week.

Q. With that exception?—A. Yes. We were away that time for about three weeks and a half.

Q. Col. Labatt in his evidence said that probably he was at home in bed for about ten days and he says this case may have come up in his absence. Apparently from his own evidence he was absent about ten days.—A. I said to you not much longer than a week that I knew of; I will probably have it in my file. I cannot say offhand.

Q. It is not unreasonable to suppose that a man suffering from total disability might be absent any day.—A. Certainly. I know he was ill one time, I do not know how long. It may have been a week or ten days. Those things happen in an office and going back a year or six months we do not remember how many days a man is absent.

Q. This would be within six months?—A. Yes. I had been away in Great Britain for practically four months.

Q. So that in that case the three members of the Commission have been absent from the board—A. Two absent.

Q. If you and Major Todd were absent in England and if Col. Labatt was absent in Montreal in bed—A. I did not know that he was in Montreal in bed. He may have been.

Q. It would be very difficult for a person who was not in good health to attempt the work on the Commission?—A. Well, outside of Col. Labatt sometimes being absent for a day, not feeling well, and he has been ill to my knowledge for a period in the

[Commander J. K. L. Ross.]