

Certified Copy of a Report of the Committee of the Privy Council,  
approved by His Excellency the Governor General on the 5th August 1922.

The Committee of the Privy Council have had before them a report, dated the 26th July 1922, from the Minister of Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment, submitting that the Second and final report of the special Committee appointed by the House of Commons of Canada to consider questions relating to pensions, insurnace, and re-establishment of returned soldiers and any amendments to the existing laws in relation thereto which may be proposed or considered necessary by the Committee, contains the following:

"The Committee has considered that certain adequate provision should be made for the burial expenses of ex-members of the forces who die in destitute circumstances and in whose cases burial is not otherwise provided for under the Pension Act, including ex-members of the Imperial Forces. It is considered advisable also that military honours of a certain character should be accorded.

"In this connection the Committee has considered the petition received from the Last Post Fund and has also considered the evidence submitted before the Committee which met in 1920. It is understood that the Fund has carried on excellent work for the past 14 years and is organizing its system throughout the Dominion. Its desire is that no former member of the Forces who dies in destitute circumstances should reach a pauper's grave.

"The petition of the Trustees of the said Fund made certain requests. It is not deemed advisable by the Committee that these requests be entirely granted, but it is considered that some action should be taken along the lines suggested by the petition in question.

"The Committee therefore recommends that the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment be authorized to enter into an agreement with and to make a grant of \$10,000.00 per annum to the Trustees of the Last Post Fund for the purpose of assisting towards the provision of burial expenses of former members of the forces of Canada and her Allies who die in destitute circumstances and for whom no other provision is made. It is not intended that such payment shall in any way apply towards the burial of dependants of former members of the Forces.

"It is considered that the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment should before payment of the Grant in question be fully satisfied that the proceeds thereof shall proportionately be applied for burial of ex-soldiers in all the Provinces of Canada, and that the organization of the Last Post Fund is sufficient to carry out the intended purpose.

"With regard to military honours during burial, the Committee recommends that where facilities exist the Department of Militia & Defence should furnish a gun carriage and a Bugler"

The Minister states that the Directors of the Last Post Fund are desirous of cooperating with the Department in every possible way. It is proposed that the general secretary of the Fund should visit the various provinces ~~where there is no provision for the burial of indigent~~ and arrange for the establishment of branch committees in order to carry out the objects of the Fund in those Provinces where there is no provision for the burial of indigent ex-members of the forces who have no claim on the Government.

In order to carry out the recommendation of the Parliamentary Committee, the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment has been granted an appropriation of \$10,000.00 by Parliament for the year 1922-3, a portion of which will be required for organization purposes.