

APPENDIX No. 2

Q. What is his pension number?—A. I do not know his pension number. There are a lot of cases where a man will receive \$5 a month, \$10 a month and so on; and for a man who has served in France for eighteen months and has come back disabled, I consider, and I think you gentlemen will consider, that an inadequate pension. He may at the time be apparently physically fit, but the weather sets in bad and he suffers again, and has to have treatment. There is a man, I think his name is McGuire, who has not received a pension. He was boarded last January and was not given a pension. He has had to call in medical advice. One of the doctors he called in, I think was Col. Argue, who asked him what pension he was getting. He said: "You know very well I am not getting anything." Twice he has had to call in medical advice since last January. He was suffering with rheumatism in France. I think he was eighteen months in France, and as soon as the weather is at all damp he suffers from chronic rheumatism.

By the Chairman:

Q. Have you his number?—A. No, but I could obtain his number. That is two specific cases.

The CHAIRMAN: You had better have his number and regiment, and send them in.

The WITNESS: Then there is the case of men having their pensions reduced. They appear before the medical board when they are notified at the end of six months, or whatever the case may be, and the first notification they have that their pension is reduced is when they receive their cheque; in the case of a man that does not receive a pension it is only through not receiving the cheque that he knows he is not receiving a pension. I have a case here which says, "Never asked for one; no one told him anything about pensions on his discharge." There is a letter here written on the 11th April to the medical board by the Great War Veterans Association asking the Pensions Board about this pension. No reply has been received to this letter as yet, owing probably to their not being able to draw the man's file; there has been congestion in the office. But I think, if it is quite in order, that when a man is boarded he should be notified whether he is to receive a pension or not. I understand that they notify the district whether the man is to receive a pension, but whether the district notifies the man is another thing. Here is this statement of a man—never asked for one; no one told him anything about pensions on his discharge. That is the man's statement. We, ourselves, have a pensions committee of the Great War Veterans Association; I am on that committee, and I would like this committee to ask our chairman to appear here. He is a barrister, employed in the Estates Branch, and has dozens of specific cases that he could quote, and has the whole thing down at his finger points.

Q. What is his name?—A. Edward R. R. Mills. Call up Local 149, and Major Relph would be pleased to have him come here.

The CHAIRMAN: I have an intimation that they would like him to come.

WITNESS: Then there is the question of negligence. I think it is right that a man should not be dealt with according to anything that has happened prior to enlistment. I have reference to syphilis. The medical authorities can easily tell you whether a man has contracted syphilis by his own negligence or not. If he has suffered with it in the army, he has been in the hospital, and upon examination in the hospital there is always a scar left, I take it, therefore they can tell whether the man contracted syphilis through his own negligence or not. The question of a man who went to France. I don't think it should be dealt with as a previous disability because those who have been to France know the filthy state of the billets, and it is possible for any one to contract any disease in France through sleeping in those filthy billets; also in drinking; you drink out of a cup and it is possible to receive syphilis through drinking, kissing, and many ways besides actual contact with a man suffering with that disease. And it is unfortunate to have that disease. It is worse than being