

A PLAIN STATEMENT FROM THE  
LAST POST FUND  
.....

We are living in an age when people who think at all, think - and very properly too - that the public have a right to know just how much of Government Grants to any worthy Cause is applied to "Organization and Administration" as compared with that which is applied to the actual work for which it is granted.

The purport of this article is to enlighten the public with regard to a Grant made to assist the work of the Last Post Fund for the first time in 1922.

In 1909 the Founders of the Last Post Fund took the stand - in which they have been very strongly supported by people of note from all parts of the Empire - that such a slight indication of gratitude for Naval or Military service performed, as to save an ex-sailor or soldier from abandonment to the charity of a paupers grave in the last extremity of death and friendlessness, is one from which an Empire of our importance should not shrink ~~from~~, but should assume the financial responsibility for cheerfully, as a national debt of gratitude.

With that ideal in view as their ultimate goal, the group who initiated the Last Post Fund in 1909 composed of a very small but energetic membership organised on a systematic, but purely voluntary basis in the Province of Quebec, to prove that the work could be accomplished when the need arose, and that from point of magnitude, it is not the serious problem it might appear in prospective at first sight to some of our Political Economists.

The Society confined its activities to the study and work connected with post-military-service obituaries in its various phases, ~~and~~ with which, the average citizen through a very human disinclination, is non-conversant and quite embarrassed when faced with the inevitable duty of making respectful (not lavish) adequate, ~~and~~ economic provision.

For thirteen years - the latter seven of which took in five of the war, and two of the post-war period - the Society without Federal, Provincial, or Civic assistance threw itself open to take care of all cases that required its assistance in the whole of the Province of Quebec, which amounted to over two hundred and fifty. All Executive work during those years was done absolutely free of cost to the society, neither salary, or honorarium being expended from the funds. Funds were raised to carry on the work, by Membership fees, by the organization of "Benefit" Entertainments, by private subscription, and "any method consistent with the dignity of the Cause" though certain methods were taboo.

During this period however, the fundamental principle of the nation assuming the financial responsibility was not lost sight of for a moment, and the governments Federal, Provincial, and Civic, were periodically importuned on the subject with no greater success than repeated promises of 'consideration' until 1919, when owing to certain developments resulting from increasing post-war military mortality amongst ex-service men who had no direct claim on the government but which were occurring generally throughout the Dominion, the Special Parliamentary Commission on Pensions and Soldier Civil Re-establishment took the system of the Last Post Fund together with other efforts, under 'serious consideration' which resulted in the Special Parliamentary Committee of 1922 making recommendation to Parliament that an annual Grant of \$10,000 be made to the Charter Trustees of the Last Post Fund to assist them in carrying out this work under Dominion Charter granted the Society in 1921.

Thus the object of existence, in principle, was recognized by the Dominion Government of Canada, and a noble example set the other parts of the British Empire.

This Federal assistance however, does not mean for a moment that the financial problem is settled, as it does not commence to meet the requirements, ~~of the Society~~, it is governed by certain stipulations