

Mr. NICKLE: Before the minister leaves the subject of the medical service, may I ask him a question? We have had some disquieting reports and rumours in reference to an alleged insufficiency of hospitalization in England, and it is said that Canadians in hospitals suffered through what I might call a lack of elasticity in the administration—a lack of sympathetic co-ordination between headquarters and the outside administration. Is there any justification for these reports?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: I have not heard of such reports. May I ask the hon. member where he saw them?

Mr. NICKLE: Certain gentlemen returning to Canada made damaging and disquieting criticisms.

Sir EDWARD KEMP: The administration of the Canadian Army Medical Corps has from the first been as good as if not better than any other. Indeed, I think our hospitals on the whole have been better conducted than any others.

Mr. NICKLE: Then, we had an excellent medical service?

Sir EDWARD KEMP: There is no doubt about it in my mind. In every way it was the very best there was.

Mr. ARCHAMBAULT: I should like to offer a correction in the information regarding Laval hospital. At page 396 of the Report it says:

No. 6 (Laval) Canadian General Hospital, Opened Troyes, January 23, 1917.

The unit of Laval started from Montreal in March 1916.

Sir EDWARD KEMP: I am very glad the hon. member has made that correction and I shall have attention drawn to it. In further copies the necessary correction will be made.

In dentistry we also took a forward step, and in the two years, 1917 and 1918, the total number of dental operations performed in France and England by the Canadian Army Dental Corps was 2,255,442. As a result of this work a great many men were saved from being placed in lower categories and were made fit for A-1 service.

The chaplain services were of very great importance in the army. The Canadian chaplains rendered splendid service under the director, Colonel J. M. Almond, C.M.G. We had in all 280 chaplains and the following statistics in regard to them may prove of interest:

426 Chaplains have served with the Overseas Military Forces of Canada.

2 have been killed in action.

1 died of wounds.

1 died while serving on Hospital ship.

2 died of sickness.

21 chaplains have been wounded while discharging their duties at the front.

20 chaplains were usually selected to accompany the troops into action.

There are services which the chaplains perform on the battlefield to those that are dying and to the sick and the wounded, which I need not describe, because nearly every one is conversant with them.

I would like also to refer to the work of the Army Pay Corps. Earlier this afternoon some hon. gentlemen asked what duties the Army Pay Corps performed, and I would like now to give that explanation.

Broadly speaking, the Canadian Army Pay Corps performs three cardinal functions:—

(1) The paying of all debts incurred by the Canadian Government with contractors, with Imperial and other Dominion Governments, etc.

(2) The making of all payments to the troops of the Overseas Military Forces of Canada and their dependents.

(3) The adjustment of reciprocal accounts between the Imperial and other Governments, and the maintaining of records and statistics in reference thereto.

Now as to the Record Office. There is a Record Office in England whose duties are as follows:

Soldiers' Documents.—The collection, custody, verification and distribution of soldiers' documents involving:—

(a) Collection and checking of documents of Drafts arriving from Canada.

(b) Collection and forwarding to France of documents of Drafts proceeding to France, and receiving and distributing documents of men evacuated from France.

(c) Checking Casualty Forms of Drafts proceeding to France.

(d) Custody of various documents during the whole period a soldier is on the strength of Overseas Military Forces of Canada, and custody of his documents while he is in France or in Hospital in England.

Casualties.—The reporting of Casualties and tracing movements while in Hospital. Under this head are comprised:—

(a) The compilation, after verification, of Daily Casualty Lists from reports received both from France and from the different centres in England. This includes the reporting of transfers of Casualties from one Hospital to another.

(b) Notification of the next-of-kin when resident in England.

(c) In case of death in England or France registering the location of the grave, and obtaining details of the circumstances of death.

(d) Making enquiries for a period of six months in respect to men reported "Missing."

(e) Compiling and distributing lists of men invalided to Canada and returned to Canada.