

## APPENDIX No. 2

that basis?—A. That is just what I am trying to get at, I am trying to bring it down to that basis. According to the Labour Bureau, \$1,200 is the least that a man with two children can live on at the present time. The present total disability allowance is not enough; we object to that; it is not high enough. And in some cases the pension has been cut down, without consideration of the man's ability to go to the work at which he was formerly employed. Lots of men want to go back to their old work, but they are unable to do so.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. The present cost of living is probably high, but after the war there will be a readjustment. The pension might be sufficient under normal conditions, whereas it may be insufficient at the present time?—A. If you take the case of the United States, where the prices were just as high at the time of the Civil War, and after the Civil War, the pensions were increased, and they have never been reduced. For that reason we would rather have it continue as it is now, under Order in Council, than have the pensions fixed by a Pensions Act, so that at any time the existing conditions can be taken into consideration. I believe myself that we ought to take something more than a man's physical ability when deciding the amount of his pension.

*By Mr. Nickle:*

Q. Supposing that two men were injured, one man was a watchmaker and the other a carpenter. Would you give a different pension to the watchmaker than the one you gave to the carpenter?—A. If that watchmaker needs a higher pension, he certainly is entitled to it.

Q. You would take into consideration the relations of their occupation?—A. Yes; we realize, however, that there will be different conditions, and that you should be able to adjust yourself to meet those conditions. There is another thing about the medical board, the boys have frequently said to me by men who have been examined for pensions by private practitioners, who are busy men, that those boards have never had a man's clothes off to examine him thoroughly, as he ought to be when determining so important a matter as the extent of his disability and the amount of pension he should receive. I think that there ought to be a central medical board in each district, it would be better even, if it cost money, to pay for it. That Board should be in the centre of each Military District, where a man could go and have all these things settled, and not have to depend upon every doctor, you do not know whether he is a reliable man or not. You go to two doctors when you are sick, and one will tell you one thing and another, another. I have had that experience myself, and that is why I say that there ought to be reliable medical men appointed in each Military District to whom a man could go to be examined. That would do away with a great deal of the dissatisfaction which now exists, and you would not have a great big bunch of medical moguls sitting here in Ottawa and saying they would not give a man the pension for which he is recommended. I have always tried to respect my officers and I have found that they were pretty good men, but I do say this, however, that sometimes in the case of officers being examined by boards, I am afraid justice goes astray, especially in some recent cases that have come up in Ottawa. We have brought men up with heart disease; I have a case in mind of a man who before enlistment was examined by the medical officer of a Scottish company for insurance, and he was given insurance for £400, after examination by the medical representatives of that company. Upon his return here after service he came up for examination for pension, and they said he had heart disease before he enlisted. Now there is a good deal of feeling among the returned soldiers about it. A man who could work at his arduous occupation so as to be in receipt of a salary of \$5,000 a year is not totally disabled, no matter what construction can be put upon it; I cannot see it that way at all, neither can other returned soldiers. The man I am talking about is a man named Muxworthy, who was not classed as disabled by the Scottish Insurance Company, just before he enlisted he took out a policy for

[Mr. Norman Knight.]