

10. The Committee is of opinion that losses were inevitable. Many of the 100,000 men mobilized for the Expeditionary Force left their rifles and equipment in their homes or elsewhere, and these have never been accounted for. Members of the Expeditionary Force also (against orders) took arms and equipment overseas. These would eventually be taken into store overseas or used by the men, therefore the loss under this head would be a loss on paper only. It was impossible to trace the stores lost under the conditions mentioned above. The Committee is of opinion that the military authorities took immediate action to minimize the losses, and that no irregularities took place, and that there is no reflection on the Department or the Minister.

With respect to further charges made by Colonel McDonald against the Defence Department, and referred to in the House by the Hon. Mr. Hanan and Mr. S. G. Smith, the Committee is of opinion that the time now at its disposal is too short to enable it to make full inquiry; it therefore recommends that it be left to the Minister to make a statement in reply.

30th October, 1922.

SPECIAL REPORT.

I AM directed to report that the Committee desires to place on record its appreciation of the services of its clerk, Mr. J. B. Hackworth, whose work has been most painstaking and thorough.

30th October, 1922.

SPECIAL REPORT.

I AM directed to report that the Committee desires to place on record its appreciation of the services of its Chairman, Mr. W. S. Glenn. His tact and judgment and his sympathetic treatment of all matters that came up for consideration helped considerably in the smooth working of the Committee.

The cases of returned soldiers and their dependants have been numerous.

The Committee held eighteen meetings, and the average attendance of members was more than eight per meeting, which is equivalent to 75 per cent. of the number of members.

THOMAS E. Y. SEDDON,
Member of the Committee.

30th October, 1922.

FINAL REPORT.

I AM directed to report that the Defence Committee held its final meeting this morning.

During the session the Committee held eighteen meetings, the average attendance of members at each meeting being over eight. Fifty-four petitions were received for consideration, and all of these were duly considered and reported on. The Committee also inquired into statements made by Colonel McDonald as to alleged losses of Ordnance stores, and has prepared a report to be presented to the House.

30th October, 1922.

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given; printing (450 copies), £7.

By Authority: W. A. G. SKINNER, Government Printer, Wellington.—1922.

Price 6d.]