

FILE 164

V

DOCKET STARTS:

VALENTINE

March 25th, 1926.

J. Valentine, Esq.,
The Veterans' Alliance,
156 Yonge Street,
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Sir:-

Let me thank you for your
letter of yesterday with enclosures.

I have been much interested
in learning the character of your organization
and in the work which it is carrying on. I
congratulate you on the results obtained.

With all good wishes, I am,

Yours faithfully,



UNITY IS STRENGTH

The Veterans' Alliance

OF
CENTRAL ONTARIO
(INCORPORATED)

J. VALENTINE,
Secretary-Treasurer
Phone MAIN 3290

Room 311-312 Kent Building
156 Yonge Street

TORONTO 2, ONT
(2)

OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE:

J. P. SCARROW, President
Great War Veterans' Association—
Acton, Ontario.

J. HATTON, 1st Vice-President
Great War Veterans' Association—
Penetanguishene, Ontario.

W. B. SANDERS, 2nd Vice-President.
Tuberculous Veterans' Association.

J. F. JOHNS, 3rd Vice-President
His Majesty's Army and Navy Veterans

COL. J. KEILLER MacKAY,
4th Vice-President.
Canadian Legion of the British Empire
Service League

COL. A. T. HUNTER,
1st Past President.
Canadian Legion

T. HOLLOWAY
Ex-Vetcraft Workers.

W. R. POTTER
Tuberculous Veterans' Association.

C. H. STOCK
Royal Grenadiers Veterans' Association.

A. G. PREVETT
Royal Grenadiers Veterans' Association.

M. REID
Disabled Veterans' Association.

L. PATTERSON
4th Battalion Association.

REV. J. J. DEKOWSKI
Polish War Veterans' Association.

MAJOR G. N. E. COLLINS
Chivalric Order Knights Crusaders of
Canada.

W. F. BROWN
Canadian Legion—Oshawa, Ontario.

the first Convention of that body last August; also
a copy of Sir Percy's reply.

You may rest assured that we will assist the
Legion in every way possible to bring about true
amalgamation and we sincerely hope that their efforts
will, in the near future, be crowned with success.

Thanking you,

We are, Yours very truly,

THE VETERANS' ALLIANCE
OF CENTRAL ONTARIO.

Secretary.



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TORONTO 2, ONT 23rd March 1926.

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Sir Arthur W. Currie, G.C.M.G..K.C.B.
Principal & Vice-Chancellor
McGill University,
Montreal, P.Q.

Dear Sir,

We are in receipt of your communication of the 22nd instant and regret that pressure of work will not permit of your contributing an article to our publication.

With reference to your expression of thought, "Why the Veterans' Alliance of Central Ontario still remains in existence and is not merged at once with the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League."; in answer to this we would state:-

(1) That the Veterans' Alliance is not an organization such as The Great War Veterans' Association inasmuch as it has no membership. The Alliance is a centralization of a number of different veteran associations, organized to facilitate amalgamation and to centralise effort in Ontario on all Veteran matters. (Literature enclosed setting forth Origin, Aims, and Accomplishments of the Alliance.)

(2) The Veterans' Alliance of Central Ontario is willing to become a part of the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League the moment that that body is in a position to function and absorb it. You will please find enclosed copy of a communication addressed by the Alliance to Sir Percy Lake, President of the Legion, following

ONTARIO VETERANS'
ALLIANCE
CENTRAL REGION



*Its Origin, Aims and
Accomplishments*



President:
J. P. SCARROW

Past President:
COL. A. T. HUNTER

Secretary-Treasurer:
J. VALENTINE

Offices: 311-312 KENT BUILDING, TORONTO
Telephone: MAIN 3290

TO ALL WHO SERVED—

Greeting



ON THIS WARRIOR'S DAY, The Veterans' Alliance desires to extend to all ex-service men an expression of cordial friendship, the hand of steadfast comradeship, and the services of its Bureau, if such are needed.

Origin

THE ORIGIN OF THE VETERANS' ALLIANCE is well known to the majority of ex-service men of Toronto and Central Ontario generally, yet in these days, when it seems possible that at last a firm step forward may be made in the direction of unity, it will bear repeating.

Early in 1923, out of a sea of trouble and conflicting elements that seemed likely to all but wreck the cause of the veteran, there emerged the first clear sighted vision of what could be accomplished by a co-ordination of the various returned soldier bodies untrammelled by individual or personal interests. A general Convention for Ontario was called in the West End Club House, Toronto, on the 24th May, 1923. This meeting was representative of practically every Chartered Association in the Province, and after careful deliberation formed itself into a Provincial Veterans' Alliance for Ontario, and for the better organization of this enormous Province, divided the territory into four Regions.

The Central Ontario Region organized itself during the Convention and elected an Executive which was quite representative from the point of view both of the number of Associations represented and of the places where the members resided, this Executive having full power to add to its numbers by the addition of further representatives of soldier organizations.

THE CENTRAL ONTARIO REGION OF THE VETERANS' ALLIANCE, on opening offices in the Kent Building, absorbed the office which had for some years been successfully operated by the Toronto & District Command of the Great War Veterans' Association, and immediately set to work upon the establishment of a PENSION ADJUSTMENT AND GENERAL SERVICE BUREAU for ALL ex-service men, *irrespective of whether they were affiliated or not.*

THE STRENGTH OF THE VETERANS' ALLIANCE (Central Ontario Region), was tested on the 12th February, 1924, by the calling of a Conference of Veterans held in the Temple Building, Toronto, at which over 150 delegates from the various individual returned soldier associations were present. This Conference proved that the bonds of unity held. Many helpful suggestions covering the needs of ex-service men in the way of legislation and policy at Ottawa were formulated, and practically every angle of Pension and Treatment requirements touched upon. From this point onward The Veterans' Alliance has progressed with almost unqualified success.

Endorsation

THE AIMS OF THE VETERANS' ALLIANCE were, in the first instance, the "picking up of the wounded." The cry of "Stretcher Bearer!" heard on every side from the throats of men tortured by sufferings from which they could obtain neither physical nor mental relief, or material compensation, rang in the ears of the newly formed organization, and the whole of the efforts of the Alliance were immediately devoted to the amelioration of their complaints, as far as might be, by obtaining for them appropriate treatment, and pension wherever indicated.

Aims

THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE VETERANS' ALLIANCE have not been widely advertised, except by those who have benefited by its work, but evidence of its success, it may here be stated, that problems relative to pension and general service matters are placed before us by men residing not only in Ontario and other parts of Canada, but in the United States, England, and, in one instance, Australia.

Accomplish-
ments

During the first eighteen months of its operations The Veterans' Alliance has been instrumental in obtaining Pensions and Retroactive Adjustments amounting to over \$110,000.00 *paid in actual cash* to the ex-service men of the City of Toronto. The amount so recovered for the entire Province of Ontario is considerably larger.

The keynote of this success has been painstaking service. Realizing that the ex-service man must prove that the disability for which he is claiming consideration is the result of war service, before the Board of Pension Commissioners can lawfully place him on the pension list, or give the benefit of hospital treatment, no pains have been spared to enquire into the minutest detail of pre-war occupation and health record, military history, and state of health since discharge, supported by medical evidence from outstanding specialists in the particular disease from which

Keynote of
Success

the man is suffering. In this way a chain of evidence is forged which will stand the strain of the strongest investigation by the Pension authorities. The results of this method speak for themselves.

Nature
of Work

THE VETERANS' ALLIANCE does not indulge in politics or criticism of outside soldier bodies. Its services are at the disposal of every man who served who has a legitimate claim for consideration by the Government in respect to his war-service disabilities.

The work of the Veterans' Alliance has resulted in the collation of a unique set of records respecting the military and medical history of the thousands of men whose cases have been dealt with. The data so compiled forms invaluable evidence for the prosecution of future claims should they arise. There is no reason why YOUR claim should not be recorded amongst them. For the safeguarding of yourself and your dependents there is every reason why it should be.

If it is necessary to obtain expert medical opinion in order to substantiate your claim for pension or treatment, the services of the best specialists in Toronto are at your disposal through the medium of The Veterans' Alliance.

Attitude
Towards
Amalgama-
tion

AMALGAMATION—The views of The Veterans' Alliance on the vital question of amalgamation are that it must be thoroughly representative of all veterans, whether attached or unattached. Such body must speak as one voice and under one name for all the returned men of Canada. It must be guided by men of proven sympathy, judgement, and understanding, who are intimate with the needs of the returned man and thoroughly conversant with the intricate Departmental regulations governing Pension and Treatment.

Until this much-to-be-desired union is accomplished The Veterans' Alliance must continue to carry on the work which it started over two years ago, and which, in point of fact, was the first practical step taken in co-ordination by any body of Canadian Returned Soldier Associations.

J. P. SCARROW,

President,

ONTARIO VETERANS' ALLIANCE,
(Central Ontario Region).

Copy.

1st December 1925.

General Sir Percy Lake, V.C..C.M.G.
President,
The Canadian Legion of the
British Empire Service League,
Victoria,
B.C..

Dear General,

Please accept the congratulations of the Central Ontario Regional Veterans' Alliance on your election to the important office of President of what we hope will indeed mean the complete unity or amalgamation of all Veteran bodies within the Dominion of Canada. We realise that you have a very difficult task ahead, and can only say that we wish you every success possible in your endeavours to bring about a satisfactory issue.

The two representatives of the Central Ontario Region, President J.P. Scarrow, and Vice-President W.B. Sanders, having returned and reported to this body on the work of the Convention, the Executive has instructed me to write you endorsing the Constitution and principles of your National Convention and their unanimous desire to become a part of the new organization known as the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League.

The Central Ontario Regional Veterans' Alliance is representative of the following Associations:-

The Tuberculous Veterans' Association.
The Canadian Legion.
His Majesty's Army & Navy Veterans.
The Disabled Veterans' Association.
The 4th Btn. Veterans' Association.
The Royal Grenadiers' Veterans' Assn:
The Polish War Veterans' Association.
The Chivalric Order of Knights Crusaders, and
Some individual branches of
The Great War Veterans' Association.

The offices are at Rooms 311-312, Kent Building, Toronto, and we are carrying out the adjustment and grievance work of the Provincial and local units of the organizations represented on our Council.

I feel sure you will immediately appreciate how far we have already gone in eliminating duplication of effort in this direction in the Province of Ontario.

The funds which enable us to carry on the centralization of this adjustment work are derived from contributions made to this Alliance by a number of generous business interests in the Province of Ontario, and most particularly in the City of Toronto, and it may be of special interest to state that we believe ourselves to be the only Veteran Organization in the Province of Ontario that can show a substantial bank balance at the present time.

(3)

We, therefore, express our desire to become a component part of the new organization with official sanction and permission from yourself, as President, to carry on our work, responsible at all times to the Dominion Council.

Should you, therefore, be pleased to accept the co-operation and affiliation of the Central Ontario Regional Veterans' Alliance as tendered herewith to you and the Executive of the new Association, we would appreciate your letting us have, at the earliest possible moment, your official sanction to carry on, as heretofore, within the new body.

I have the honour to remain,

Yours fraternally,

(Signed) J. Valentine.

Secretary,
Central Ontario Regional
Veterans' Alliance.

The Ontario Provincial Government has been pleased to set aside a grant to defray the medical expenses entailed in the examination of the disabled ex-service men, which is necessary not only to assess their approximate degree of disability, but also to reach a true diagnosis of the condition which can reasonably be considered as attributable to, or aggravated by, war service.

You will see from the above that the contributions derived from the business men are used entirely for the payment of salaries, rent, office expenses, etc.

The office rent of the Alliance is \$85.00 per month, and we provide the Official Soldiers' Adviser with an office in our suite.

The staff of the Alliance is a very limited one, consisting of myself as Secretary, at a salary of \$175.00 per month, and W.J. Ashley, Assistant Secretary, at \$140.00 per month. This comprises our entire salaried personnel.

We started to function in October 1923. A statement of the results of our activities from that time until now is as follows:-

- 1605. Disabled men filed appeals.
- 762. Disabled men received medical examinations.
- 292. Disabled men received medical boards.
- 306. Additional cases investigated with a view to obtaining medical boards.
- 196. Disabled men and war widows placed on pension.
- 140. Disabled men received hospital treatment.
- 9. Women assisted with Mothers' Allowance Commission.

3310 Total cases assisted.

RESULT:-

Retroactive pensions.....	\$54,339.19
Pay and Allowances.....	10,473.80
Current yearly pensions.....	<u>82,444.34</u>
	\$ 147,257.33
Deferred payments re pensions computed for the next succeeding four years	<u>\$ 329,777.36</u>
	<u>\$ 477,034.69</u>

As it is fair to estimate that each of the recipients of these settlements will live for a period of at least five years, the figures given above are a very conservative estimate of the amounts received and receivable.

Our operations are not confined to Toronto and district; we operate over a very wide area and take care of not only the veterans who belong to the different organizations who are component parts of this Alliance, but also of the vast number of unattached men who, unfortunately, form the majority of veterans in every Province.

Copy.

1004. Terrace Avenue,
Victoria,
B.C.

10th December 1925.

J. Valentine Esq.,
The Secretary of the
Central Ontario Regional Veterans' Alliance.
Rooms 311-312. Kent Building,
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Sir,

I thank you for your letter of December 1st: for the interesting account of the work which the Regional Veterans' Alliance has been able to accomplish, and especially for their offer of co-operation in the work of unity. Naturally, I am extremely gratified by the desire of the Alliance to become a part of the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League.

Of the Veterans which the Alliance represents, The G.W.V.A., The Canadian Legion, and the Tuberculous Veterans' Association Headquarters have, of course, already signified their intention to join the Legion. The Army & Navy Veterans Branches must, I presume, await directions from the Headquarters of their organization before actually joining. Is this so, or do the branches you represent mean that they have made up their minds to declare for the Legion?

Can you say definitely that the other Associations you name in your letter have made up their minds to join the Legion?

I am much interested in your account of your business arrangements, and the manner in which you apply your funds to the work, and especially in your statement that you watch over the interests of the "unattached" men generally, as well.

I am sending this acknowledgement of your letter through Comrade Sergt. A.E. Moore, Chairman of the Dominion Executive Council, who is managing the business of the Legion, and who will, I am sure, agree with me in a cordial acceptance of your offer to co-operate with us and carry on your work as heretofore within the Legion until the National Dominion Convention which we hope will be in March (and which, of course, we cannot pledge in advance) is able formally to take cognizance of your valuable proposal and arrange your status within the Legion."

Yours very truly,

(Signed) PERCY LAKE.

DOCKET ENDS:

VALENTINE

72
October
Seventeenth
1921.

Thomas Veitch, Esq.,
4, Soho Street,
Liverpool, England.

My dear Veitch:-

Your letter of the 13th of September came to me as a very great surprise. I had been told during the War that you had died shortly after War broke out. I do not know how such a rumour originated but I am certain that I got my information from Bob Clark. We often spoke of you and had expected to hear from you after our arrival in England, but for the last few years of the War and since we have both been under the impression above suggested.

I am indeed very sorry to learn of the death of your son Gordon. You are called upon to bear a very great sorrow in having lost him while still so young and just on the threshold of his career. I remember him very well in Victoria and know what a promising lad he was. I also know how sincerely attached both you and Mrs. Veitch were to him. I hope that his sister soon recovers.

I am very sorry that I am not in a position to loan you the \$500. asked for. I returned from the War, like a good many others, having lost everything I had. You know of the Corona property in Victoria and of the amount that Bob Clark and I had put in that - something over \$20,000. The taxes had accumulated during the War and we have since been called upon to pay them. Neither one of us had any money to do this, nor could we continue payments on the principal. The owners of the land refused to

Thomas Veitch, Esq. - 2 -

release us from our obligation and I was forced to make a deal whereby I have to pay them some \$17,000. and lose the land in the bargain, otherwise they would have entered suit. This has left me very hard up. I know that many people are under the impression that I got a large grant of money from the Dominion Government. Such was not the case. All I received was a job, which I was very happy to relinquish.

I am very congenially placed as Principal and Vice-Chancellor of McGill University in Montreal. I like the City and its people and I like the work.

Most cordially sympathizing with you and Mrs. Veitch in your great sorrow and regretting my inability to meet your wishes in the matter of a loan, I am,

Ever yours faithfully,

23 GAMBIER TERRACE,
LIVERPOOL.

2/6/25.

General Sir A. W. Currie,
C. B. - K. C. M. G.
late Commander-in-Chief
of Canadian Forces, in
France.
Montreal.

Dear Arthur. The bearer, Mr
Donald Hargreaves, belongs
to a highly respected Liverpool
family, well known to Mr. Steer
& myself. He is making for
Windsor, Ontario, where he
has friends. He is an

Electrusion by trade,
but expresses a desire
of joining the North West
Mounted Police. Any
influence you may exercise,
or kindness shown to him,
will be regarded as
having been extended
to me. Wm. Veitch
joins me in sending
kindest regards to yourself,
Lady Lurie (Lily) & Children.

Yours as ever
Tom. Veitch.

June 25th, 1925.

T. D. Veitch, Esq.,
23, Gambier Terrace,
Liverpool, England.

My dear Tom:-

Upon my return from the hospital a day or so ago I found your letter of June 2nd. I also found in the same mail a letter from Mr. Hargreaves in which he states that the Transportation Company would not allow him any stop-over privileges and therefore he was unable to spend any time in Montreal. I was in the hospital when he went through and could not get in touch with him.

His letter to me says nothing about joining the Mounted Police but he is anxious that I help him get a position in some electrical company. That is rather a hard thing to do in the circumstances, but I do not think he will have much difficulty in view of the fact that there is considerable development in the world of electrical engineering here.

I am sailing by the Montcalm on the 26th for the Old Country and hope to spend a couple of months over there.

My wife joins me in most cordially reciprocating your good wishes to Mrs. Veitch and yourself

Yours faithfully,

January 18, 1926.

W.B. Sanders, Esq.,
President, Tuberculous Veterans' Association,
1005, Dufferin Street, Toronto.

Dear Mr. Sanders:-

Let me thank you for your letter of January 13th,
with reference to Mr. Verner.

When he came to see me he certainly presented to me
that through your efforts he had secured \$250 out of the \$300., and
that as all he needed to make it possible for him to engage in business
was \$50. I now find that he has raised that \$300 and whether intentionally
or not he left me under a wrong impression. I am afraid he thought
that the first \$300 came rather easily and that as a method of procuring
funds it was worth following. Under the circumstances I am not inclined
to send anything for Mr. Verner's benefit.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.



The Tuberculous Veterans' Association of Canada

Incorporated

TORONTO BRANCH
1005 DUFFERIN STREET
TORONTO, - - ONTARIO

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

PHONE KENWOOD 0560 W

Toronto. 4. Jan. 13th 1926

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Sir Arthur. W. Currie, G.C.M. G.K.C.B.

Principal McGill University,

Montreal,

P.Q.

Dear Sir Arthur,

I appreciate your letter of advice dated Jan. 11th with reference to Mr. Venner.

I do not know whether Mr. Venner made himself quite clear or not, but would state that I have raised a total of three hundred dollars for Mr. Venner, all of which I have paid to him, he does I know, need further capital, but I think he should have told me that he was collecting in Montreal.

I do much appreciate Sir, the splendid spirit you have shown, and of course I leave the matter of a donation entirely to your good judgement.

I have the honor to be Sir,

Yours fraternally,

W. B. Sanders, President
Tuberculous Veterans Ass.
Toronto-----Branch.

WBS:IM.

January 11th, 1926.

W. B. Sanders, Esq.,
C/o. Tuberculous Veterans' Association,
1005 Dufferin Street,
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Sir:-

I have this morning received a call from Mr. Venner who has shewn me letters addressed to you signed by Mr. E. R. Wood, Mr. John Wylie for Mr. R. Y. Eaton, Colonel Albert E. Gooderham, Mr. E. W. Beatty and Sir Joseph Flavelle.

These letters indicate that the signers are willing to donate \$50.00 each towards some \$300.00 you are collecting in order to help Mr. Venner become established in business. If these figures are correct I shall not see you stuck for the remaining \$50.00, although I am not at all in the class of the Flavelles, etc.

I shall appreciate a note
from you.

Yours faithfully,

Victoria

November
Twenty-sixth
1920.

His Worship the Mayor,
Victoria, B. C.

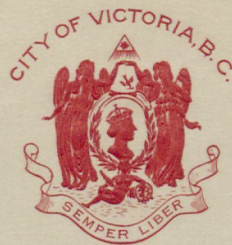
Dear Mr. Mayor:-

I acknowledge the receipt of your worship's letter of November 18th. The same mail brought me the Illuminated Address presented to me by the City Council on behalf of the citizens of Victoria. It is a most beautiful address and I congratulate all concerned in its preparation, but its value to me consists in the sentiments expressed.

I have not forgotten, I never can forget, how kind the citizens of my home city were when I returned from the War. My heart is still in the West, and I hope that some day I may return and become once again a citizen of beautiful Victoria.

Will you please convey to the City Council this expression of my most sincere thanks and my most cordial esteem.

Yours faithfully,



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR,
VICTORIA, B. C. November 18th, 1920.

General Sir Arthur Currie,
President, McGill University,
Montreal, P. Q.

Dear General:-

I am forwarding to you by to-day's
mail Illuminated Address presented to you by the
City Council on behalf of the Citizens of Victoria.

I regret that the preparation of this
Address has taken so long.

Hoping to have the pleasure of seeing
you again in the near future, and with best regards,
I am,

Yours truly,

Mayor.