

In very abbreviated form the principal items of recent legislation were as follows:—

1. Provision was made for compensation to be paid to relatives or dependants of airmen in the public service of Canada in the event of death or injury while so employed.

2. In view of the fact that serious unemployment existed, reducing certain former members of the forces to a condition of distress, it was decided that assistance should be rendered to any relief issued by municipalities and charitable and veteran organizations. Maximum payments were stipulated.

3. Aid to former members of the forces in the United Kingdom, both in case of those desiring to return to Canada and of those in indigent circumstances, was provided for, such aid to be in the form of loans.

4. The medical treatment, vocational training and general care by the Department of former members of the forces, hitherto extended only to those suffering from disabilities attributable to war service, was extended to others where only a possibility existed that disability was due to this cause, with provision for the payment of subsistence, loss of wages, etc.

5. The payment of \$10,000 to the Last Post Fund was authorized, to provide for the burial of indigent ex-members of the forces and administration of the work.

The following are, in the main, the findings of the Royal Commission on Pensions and Re-establishment:—

(1) No evidence was presented to indicate the existence of conspiracy, plot or ulterior motive in the administration of the Pension Act. (2) Amendments should be made to the Pension Act, to render it absolutely clear that former members of the C.E.F. and their dependants would be entitled to pension in respect of any disabilities attributable to war service. (3) Appeal tribunals should be instituted to decide on eligibility for receipt of treatment or pension, and on pension awards.¹ (4) Cases of unsuccessful applications for insurance should be reviewed with subsequent action, if justified. (5) The time allotted for applications for insurance should terminate on Sept. 1, 1923. (6) There should be attached to each office of the Department a special soldiers' advisor to assist former members of the forces in the preparation and presentation of their claims.

Several amendments to the Pension Act and the Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment Act were proposed by the House of Commons, but were subsequently struck out by the Senate. These Acts now remain unchanged in their important details.

War Pensions.—A Board of Pension Commissioners for Canada, consisting of three members, was created by Order in Council of June 3, 1916, (P.C. 1334), with exclusive jurisdiction and authority to deal with the granting and payment of naval and military pensions and other allowances to persons in the Canadian Naval Forces and the Canadian Expeditionary Force and to their dependants.

Under Orders in Council of April 12, 1921, (P.C. 1187), Aug. 17, 1921, (P.C. 2722), and Dec. 1, 1921, (P.C. 4500), and under authority of the Pension Act of 1919 (9-10 Geo. V, c. 43), the administration of the head office of the Board of Pension Commissioners was transferred to the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment as from April 1, 1921, the Pension Commissioners, however, continuing to exercise full power and authority in dealing with the granting and renewing of, and adjudication upon pensions.

¹ On the matter coming before Parliament, one appeal board only, The Federal Appeal Board, was created. It is composed of a chairman, two members to hold office for three years, and two members appointed for two years. It has no jurisdiction over pension awards.