

## V.—DEPARTMENT OF SOLDIERS' CIVIL RE-ESTABLISHMENT AND BOARD OF PENSION COMMISSIONERS FOR CANADA.

Three organizations are associated together in dealing with the care, treatment, pensions and rehabilitation of former members of the forces, namely, the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, the Board of Pension Commissioners for Canada and the Federal Appeal Board. The Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment is responsible for the medical treatment, vocational training and care of all returned soldiers requiring its assistance; it is also responsible for the payment of all pensions and allowances to which these men may be entitled. The Board of Pension Commissioners is responsible for the adjudication and award of pensions. The Federal Appeal Board, which was created by an amendment to the Pension Act in 1923, is authorized to hear appeals against decisions of the other two bodies in respect to ineligibility for treatment or pension on the ground that the disability from which the man may be suffering is not attributable to service.

The development and activities of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment have been set forth at length in previous issues of the Year Book. (See especially the 1920 Year Book, pp. 21-40). The rates of pension and certain statistics regarding pensions have also appeared. (See 1922-23 Year Book, pp. 935-937).

The work of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment reached its peak in 1920, when the total number of employees, apart from those employed by the Board of Pension Commissioners, was 8,791. The staff of the Board of Pension Commissioners at that time was upwards of 1,000. In 1921 the two staffs were amalgamated, with the exception of a small number of doctors and assistants who were attached to the Board. The number of employees on Dec. 31, 1924, was 2,524, a large majority of whom had seen service in France.

The Department is operating nine hospitals, with a total bed capacity of 2,647. It is also utilizing a large number of civilian general-treatment hospitals, tuberculosis sanatoria and mental institutions. The number of soldier in-patients at Dec. 31, 1924, was 3,347. This is a reduction of 272 from the previous year, but the numbers are now becoming much more constant, as a majority of the transient cases have been dealt with already.

At the session of Parliament in 1924, two amendments were made to the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment Act, one dealing with the classification and control of the staff, and the other empowering the Department to receive and hold moneys belonging to ex-members of the forces who have received treatment, particularly those suffering from mental diseases.

The Department is continuing to assume responsibility for workmen's compensation in the case of pensioners of 20 p.c. and upwards; this provision is assisting materially in the placement of disabled men in industry, as not only are the premiums paid to the various Workmen's Compensation Boards returnable to the employers, but the Department reimburses these Boards the amount of compensation payable, less any premiums returned.

A measure of relief to pensioners has been continued by the Department. The method adopted is to issue orders on grocers, landlords, coal-dealers, etc. Such expenditure during the calendar year 1924 was \$336,966. Relief was granted to 33,642 men.