

The following are the figures of disability and dependent pensions of beneficiaries under the Pension Act as at Mar. 31, 1928:—

Total number of disability pensions, temporary.....	32,033
Total number of disability pensions, permanent.....	18,602
Total.....	50,635
Total number of dependent pensioners—	
Widows.....	7,737
Others.....	12,238
Total.....	19,975

Number of persons in receipt of benefits under the Pension Act as at Mar. 31, 1928:—

Disability pensioners.....	50,635
Disability pensioners' wives.....	36,898
Disability pensioners' children.....	62,766
Disability pensioners' other relatives.....	1,203
Dependent pensioners.....	19,975
Dependent pensioners' children.....	8,588
Other relatives in addition to main dependant.....	1,657
	181,722

Scale of Pensions.—The scale of pensions paid to dependent and disability pensioners has been several times revised. Before the Great War the pension for total disability in the case of a private had been \$150 per annum. Since 1920 the total disability pension in the case of a private has been \$900, one-third of this being paid as a bonus during the five years from Sept. 1, 1921. This bonus was later incorporated into the ordinary pension under c. 49 of the Statutes of 1925, with the result that the permanent total disability pension for lieutenants and all ranks below is now \$900 for an unmarried person, with an addition of \$300 for wife, \$180 for the first child, \$144 for second child and \$120 for each additional child. Rates of pensions for all ranks were published in tables on pp. 960-962 of the 1925 Year Book, to which the reader is referred.

Federal Appeal Board.—In accordance with the provisions of legislation passed in 1923, the Federal Appeal Board was appointed in August 1923 by the Governor in Council, on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Justice.

The establishment of the Appeal Board was decided upon in order to afford to returned soldiers, requiring or claiming treatment or pension, an opportunity to appeal to an independent tribunal against a refusal of their claim by the Board of Pension Commissioners or the Department of Pensions and National Health.

The function of the Board and the more important parts of the legislation under which it was established are set out in the following section of the Pension Act, c. 62, 13-14 Geo. V, 1923:—

"11. (1) Upon the evidence and record upon which the Board of Pension Commissioners gave their decision an appeal shall lie in respect of any refusal of pension by the Board of Pension Commissioners on the grounds that the disability resulting from injury or disease or the aggravation thereof resulting in death was not attributable to or was not incurred during military service"

The Board holds sessions in approximately fifty centres in the Dominion. The appellants are represented and assisted in the preparation and presentation of their claims by Official Soldiers' Advisers appointed by the Federal Government. Up to the end of March, 1929, a total of 16,065 appeals had been registered with the Board.

The Board also acts as agent for the Imperial Pensions Appeal Tribunal and has dealt with a total of 1,054 cases up to the end of March, 1929.