

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.—The members of the Board were appointed by Order in Council dated Aug. 17, 1923, and its work continued from that time without a break until its dissolution on Sept. 30, 1930.

The total additional annual liability in respect of pensions awarded under decisions of the Federal Appeal Board on account of adjustments made up to Aug. 31, 1930, was \$823,168. In addition the sum of \$2,280,418 was paid to ex-members of the forces and their dependants on account of retro-active adjustments of pension and treatment allowances under decisions of the Board.

In the entire seven years of the Board's existence 22,237 appeals were placed before it. Of this number 10,602 were heard; judgments were rendered on all but 81 of the cases heard. The greater number of the 81 cases on which judgment was not issued were claims where the hearings had been adjourned in order that the appellant might endeavour to obtain additional evidence in connection with his claim.

Of the balance of 11,635 cases registered with the Board, 4,167 were disposed of as being outside the Board's jurisdiction, 1,299 appeals were re-opened and settled by the Board of Pension Commissioners without the necessity of coming to appeal hearing, 754 was the total of cases where further information was required before an exact classification could be made, this including 251 appeals received in the last few days of the Board's existence; 5,415 cases normally would have come before the Board for hearing later, although in 1,749 of these Official Soldiers' Advisers had stated that they were not ready to proceed.

Pension Tribunal and Pension Appeal Court.—Since the end of the fiscal year as a result of legislation passed by Parliament in May, 1930, a number of changes have been made in the work of the department and in the provisions of the Pension Act. After a general discussion in Parliament, all matters concerning the welfare of veterans were referred to a special committee of the House of Commons. The desire to enlarge the scope of the legislation in order specially to benefit those who were in need was evident throughout the entire procedure and the report submitted by the committee was unanimous.

The major amendments to the Pension Act deal with the re-hearing of pension applications, the lodging of appeals, the removal of time limits, the broadening of the meritorious section, the stoppage of final payments, the reinstatement to pension of pensioners who accepted a final payment, the provision that marriage after the appearance of the disability before Jan. 1, 1930, is not a bar to the granting of a widow's pension, and a section dealing with the "benefit of doubt".

Under the amendments, the Federal Appeal Board ceased to function on Sept. 30, 1930. Provision was made for the appointment of a Pension Tribunal consisting of nine persons and a Pension Appeal Court consisting of three persons. The new procedure provided that applications be made in the first instance to the Board of Pension Commissioners for Canada, but that if a pension is not awarded the case be referred, through the channels provided for in the Act, to the Pension Tribunal to be dealt with by a quorum of that body at an open hearing. An appeal lies from any decision of the Pension Tribunal to the Pension Appeal Court on account of attributability, or whether any pre-enlistment disability was wilfully concealed, was obvious, was of a nature to cause