

rejection from service, or was congenital; or in respect of the degree of any pre-enlistment disability; or the right to receive pension in respect of any period prior to the date of application therefor; or the jurisdiction of the Board of Pension Commissioners or the Pension Tribunal to deal with an application; or the interpretation of any provision of the Pension Act. There is no appeal in respect of assessment. All applications previously disposed of by the Federal Appeal Board or the Board of Pension Commissioners may be renewed under the amendment.

By the removal of the time limit, applications for pension or for reconsideration of any decision or award can be made at any time.

The Board of Pension Commissioners, acting alone, is authorized to award a compassionate pension or allowance under the meritorious section. Applications under this section may be renewed before the Pension Appeal Court by its order.

Notwithstanding that the granting of final payments to those with a pensionable disability of under 15 p.c. has been of material benefit to a number of pensioners, in many cases it has created a hardship in that the money paid has been expended and no further pension has been payable unless the disability has increased. Under an amendment to this effect, no further final payments can be made, and those who have already received such payments are being restored to pension as from the time at which the amount of the final payment received was equal to the sum of the instalments of pension which would have been paid if pension had been continued in the same monthly amount. The restoration to pension and the continuation thereof is subject to the condition that the disability has persisted.

The provision that the widow of a member of the forces whose death results from a war disability shall be entitled to a pension, if she was married to such a member of the forces either before he was granted a pension or before Jan. 1, 1930, has benefited between 800 and 900 widows, and it will benefit a great many in the years to come.

From the commencement of the Pension Act there has been a provision that the widow of a man who was in receipt of a pension of 80 p.c. or upwards, would be granted a pension on the death of her husband, whether his death was attributable to his service or not. At first the time limit during which death from a non-service disability must occur was set at 5 years from date of discharge or date of commencement of pension, meaning any degree of pension. This was subsequently enlarged to 10 years. Reference to the date of discharge has now been struck out and the ten-year period made to run from the time the pensioner is or was placed on a pension of 80 p.c. or upwards.

With regard to the "benefit of doubt", it may be well to quote the phraseology of the Act which reads as follows:—

"Notwithstanding anything in this Act, on any application for pension the applicant shall be entitled to the benefit of the doubt, which shall mean that it shall not be necessary for him to adduce conclusive proof of his right to pension applied for, but the body adjudicating on the claim shall be entitled to draw, and shall draw from all the circumstances of the case, the evidence adduced and medical opinions, all reasonable inferences in favour of the applicant".

Veterans' Bureau.—Provision was made for the establishment of a branch of the department to be known as the "Veterans' Bureau". This has taken the