

Section 5.—Pensions and other Provision for War Veterans.*

Pensions Section.—This Section is responsible for the administration of returned soldiers' affairs under the Department of Pensions and National Health Act, the War Veterans' Allowance Act, and the Veterans' Assistance Commission Act. It is also responsible, by direction of the Canadian Pension Commission, for certain administrative duties under the Pension Act and the Returned Soldiers' Insurance Act. The Representative of the Treasury is responsible for all payments under these Acts.

The Annual Report for the fiscal year ended Mar. 31, 1937, shows a decrease from the previous year in the number of ex-members of the Forces who received in-patient hospital treatment, the number being 11,742 as against 12,835 in 1935-36, 12,560 in 1934-35, 11,718 in 1933-34, and 13,342 in 1932-33. The Department maintains eight hospitals, situated in the following centres: Halifax, Saint John, Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Toronto, London, Winnipeg, Calgary, and Vancouver. A sheltered employment workshop is operated at Montreal and one shop by the Red Cross Society at Victoria.

One of the features of the activities of the Department is provision in a departmental institution for pensioners who through age or infirmity are unable to care for themselves. The number of such cases showed an increase during the year, the total on Mar. 31, 1937, being 299 as against 286 a year previously, 235 on Mar. 31, 1935, 250 on Mar. 31, 1934, 213 on Mar. 31, 1933, and 198 on Mar. 31, 1932. The issue of orthopædic and surgical appliances has been maintained with a slight decrease. The number of pensioners who have been granted relief was 12,322 in 1936-37 as compared with 12,083 in 1935-36, 11,541 in 1934-35, 12,735 in 1933-34, 14,368 in 1932-33, 12,303 in 1931-32, and 8,811 in 1930-31. The expenditure on relief in 1936-37 was \$2,435,285; in 1935-36, \$2,365,579; in 1934-35, \$2,042,355; in 1933-34, \$1,912,563; in 1932-33, \$1,978,284; 1931-32, \$2,082,052; and 1930-31, \$907,010.

The provision under which the Department assumes responsibility in respect of accidents sustained by pensioners of 25 p.c. and upwards when engaged in industry has been continued. During the fiscal year under review, the number of claims was 260; in 1935-36, 279; in 1934-35, 222; in 1933-34, 180; in 1932-33, 179; and in 1931-32, 200. The expenditure was as follows; 1936-37, \$18,590; 1935-36, \$27,138; 1934-35, \$23,103; 1933-34, \$36,420; 1932-33, \$17,641; 1931-32, \$49,878. The expenditure is largely governed by the number of fatal and serious accidents.

The following is a summary statement of the manner in which the funds appropriated by Parliament have been dealt with, and also sets forth the costs of administration and the adjudication of pensions.

NET PAYMENTS BY DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND NATIONAL HEALTH FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED MAR. 31, 1937.

PENSIONS BRANCH.

Net Cash Payments—

European War pensions.....	\$ 41,424,433.
War Veterans' allowances.....	3,178,616
Unemployment relief.....	2,435,285
Sheltered employment.....	18,421
Hospital allowances.....	1,083,919

Total Paid in Cash..... \$48,140,674

* Revised by F. H. Brown, Assistant Secretary, Department of Pensions and National Health. See also the 1930 Year Book, pp. 982-983.