

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

The administration of returned soldiers' affairs is carried on by the Pensions Branch of the Department of Pensions and National Health. This Branch 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 1939 shows an increase compared with the previous years in the number of ex-members of the Forces who received in-patient hospital treatment, the number being 12,453 as against 11,443 in 1937-38, and 11,742 in 1936-37. The Department maintains a hospital in each of eight cities throughout Canada.

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, 1939, being 407 as against 377 a year previously, 299 in 1937, and 286 in 1936. In the issue of orthopædic and surgical appliances there has been a slight decrease. The number of pensioners who were granted relief was 10,732 in 1938-39, as compared with 11,179 in 1937-38 and 12,322 in 1936-37. The expenditure on relief was \$2,186,683 in 1938-39, \$2,232,398 in 1937-38, and \$2,435,285 in 1936-37.

The Department assumes responsibility in respect of accidents sustained by pensioners of 25 p.c. and upwards when engaged in industry. During the fiscal year under review, the number of claims was 455 as compared with 317 in 1937-38 and 260 in 1936-37. Expenditures, which are governed largely by the number of fatal and serious accidents, were \$77,841 in 1936-37, \$39,977 in 1937-38, and \$18,590 in 1938-39.

The disbursements of the Department (including \$994,812 for national health), amounted to \$57,592,346 in the fiscal year 1938-39. Of this, \$42,396,766 was paid as pensions, \$5,335,299 as war veterans' allowances, and \$2,198,944 as unemployment assistance. Detailed expenditures are shown in the Annual Report of the Department for 1938-39 at p. 25.

The Canadian Pension Commission.—By c. 45 of the Statutes of 1933, the Board of Pension Commissioners for Canada and the Pension Tribunal ceased to exist; their duties were taken over by the Canadian Pension Commission, which was formed by the Act referred to, and the personnel of the Commission was increased from three to not less than eight nor more than twelve.

The Commission is responsible for the adjudication and awarding of pensions in respect of disabilities connected with military service and the awarding of pensions to the dependants of those who die. It operates under the authority of the Pension Act. The large increase in disability pensioners from 1930 to 1933, inclusive, was due primarily to the reinstatement on pension of those who had commuted their pensions from 1920 onwards. This restoration was under the authority of an amendment to the Pension Act in 1930.

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