

In 1941, Parliament appointed a select committee to consider the general provisions of the Pension Act and ex-servicemen's problems and to make suitable recommendations in regard thereto. After consideration of the Committee's report, which was framed to meet present-day conditions and based on experience gathered in the administration of the Pension Act since the First World War, Parliament decided to make the provisions of that statute, with appropriate amendments, applicable to claims arising out of the present war.

*Summary and Procedure in Regard to Application.*—The provisions of the Pension Act, as originally enacted in 1919, although wide and generous in their scope as compared with pension legislation in other countries, have, therefore, been considerably broadened and extended by various amendments enacted from time to time during the past 24 years. Amendments to the statute since 1919 have:—

- (1) substantially increased the actual amounts of pension payable;
- (2) widened the grounds on which pension might be awarded;
- (3) authorized certain additional benefits, such as clothing allowance for pensioners compelled to wear artificial appliances, allowances for parents, and made special provisions for disability due to tuberculosis;
- (4) introduced the principle of personal appearance and public hearings for applicants;
- (5) with respect to the present War, provided that service anywhere outside of Canada should be regarded as service in a theatre of actual war.

The procedure at present to be followed in dealing with applications for pension arising out of both the First and the Second World Wars, is laid down in Sects. 51 to 61 of the Act. Briefly, it consists of three stages for applicants whose claims are not previously granted. On first application, the evidence presented is considered at what is known as a first hearing. If the Commission's decision is adverse to the applicant, he is entitled to a second hearing, provided he applies within ninety days of the first hearing. When presenting his claim for second hearing, he is required to include all disabilities which he claims to be due to his military service. Prior to second hearing, the applicant is furnished with a complete and detailed summary of all evidence available in the departmental records pertaining to his case. He is given every opportunity to review this evidence, to include any additional evidence he can secure, and is allowed six months from the date of mailing the summary evidence in which to prepare his claim. When notified by the applicant or his representative that the claim is ready for hearing, the Pensions Commission then gives a decision on second hearing. If this decision is adverse to the applicant, he then has the right to appear before an *Appeal Board of the Commission sitting in his district* and to call witnesses if he desires. The judgment of the Appeal Board is final and the application cannot be considered again, except by special permission of an Appeal Board when it is shown to the satisfaction of such a Board that an error has been made by reason of evidence not having been presented or otherwise.

This procedure has proved eminently satisfactory. Not only is the applicant made fully aware of the reasons which preclude entitlement to a pension but he is given adequate expert assistance by the Veterans' Bureau in the preparation of his claim. It has resulted in bringing to a finality many claims in which the applicants have realized that the evidence of continuity with service of the condition causing disability or death was insufficient and they have decided not to proceed further with their applications.

**Pensions Statistics.**—The Commission's routine pension work arising out of the First World War involves administration of about 75,000 disability and 17,000 dependant awards, as well as adjudication on claims which continue to be received. Decisions rendered by the Commission on various types of applications arising out