

broadened and extended by various amendments enacted from time to time during the past twenty-five 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 allowances 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 the War of 1914-18 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 of 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 for claims arising out of the War of 1914-18. 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 or by the service bureaus of ex-service men's organizations in the preparation of his claim. It has resulted in bringing to a finality many claims in which applicants have realized that the evidence of continuity with service of the condition causing disability or death was insufficient.

The procedure affecting cases of the present war, however, has been revised. Under P.C. 9553 of December, 1944, the time limits for the preparation and presentation of applications for current cases have been suspended for the duration of the War and one year afterwards. When a claim has not been wholly granted, the applicant is advised of his right, under the new legislation, to renew his application without the imposition of any time limits and, when he is ready, he may inform the Commission of his intentions relating to the further prosecution of his claim, either by renewed application or by appeal. The procedure followed is very much in line with that followed in cases of the War of 1914-18 other than that there is no time limit imposed and an applicant may by-pass the "renewal hearing" and take his case before an Appeal Board sitting in his district.