

offices has been the means of overcoming what seemed an almost unsurmountable task. The large back-log of applications for post-discharge dental treatment prevailing at the close of the fiscal year 1945-46 had, with few exceptions, disappeared by early autumn, 1946.

Up to Mar. 31, 1947, approximately 650,000 applicants had been declared eligible and treatment authorized; of these about 11 p.c. had been completed. Treatments supplied and the number of patients whose treatments were completed, by years from 1940 to 1946 are as follows:—

<i>Year Ended Mar. 31—</i>	<i>Treatments</i>	<i>Patients Completely Treated</i>
	<i>No.</i>	<i>No.</i>
1940.....	121,604	9,587
1941.....	99,590	8,020
1942.....	73,113	7,380
1943.....	102,554	10,817
1944.....	66,562	11,841
1945.....	249,170	23,672
1946.....	509,703	56,416

Section 4.—Pensions and Allowances

Subsection 1.—The Pension System

Background of Canadian Pensions Legislation.—The Pension Act of 1919 established a Board consisting of three members vested with exclusive power and authority to adjudicate upon pension claims and to award pensions for disability or death related to military service in the War of 1914-18. The Canadian pensions legislation as it developed following the First World War is outlined at pp. 759-760 of the 1943-44 Year Book. The machinery which then took form has been adapted and applied to present circumstances.

Following the outbreak of the Second World War, the provisions of the Pension Act, with certain modifications, were tentatively made applicable to members of the Forces serving in that war, and, in 1941, Parliament appointed a select committee to consider the provisions of the Pension Act, including ex-service men's problems generally, 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 Second World 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Summary and Procedure in Regard to Application.—The provisions of the Pension Act, as originally enacted in 1919, although wide and generous in their scope as compared with pension legislation in other countries, have been considerably broadened and extended by various amendments enacted from time to time during the past twenty-eight 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 special provisions for disability due to tuberculosis;
- (4) introduced the principles of personal appearance and public hearings for applicants;
- (5) with respect to the War of 1939-45 provided that service anywhere outside of Canada should be regarded as service in a theatre of actual war.