

1943, the Canadian Government, through the Canadian Pension Commission, assumed the payment out of Canadian funds for all awards arising out of the Second World War and the United Kingdom was reimbursed for such awards already paid. As at May 31, 1947, there were 2,255 such awards in payment.

Veterans' Bureau.—The Veterans' Bureau was established in 1930 as a Branch of the Department that is now the Department of Veterans Affairs. Its function is to assist the applicant for war disability pension and present his claim to the Canadian Pension Commission. The relationship of the Veterans' Bureau and the Canadian Pension Commission is practically the same as exists between the members of the Bar and the Judiciary. Bureau Advocates require a comprehensive knowledge of pension law and procedure, and long experience in medico-legal matters as they relate to war disability claim. The Second World War, by its nature, exposed many groups of citizens, other than members of the military forces, to the danger of war disability. These groups such as merchant seamen, fire fighters, Auxiliary Service personnel, air-raid precaution workers and others have been given disability pension rights by statute and Bureau Advocates serve them in addition to ex-members of the military forces.

The policy of the Canadian Pension Commission is to make a pension ruling without application in respect to all members of the military forces who are discharged with a disabling condition. In the large majority of pension claims, therefore, the Veterans' Bureau first appears in a case on a claim by the applicant that the Pension Commission decision is wrong. The move against a Commission decision may take several forms. The applicant may apply for a renewal hearing with additional evidence. He may make several such applications. He may ask for an Appeal Board hearing with or without having had renewal hearings and with or without any additional evidence. With very limited exception, the Appeal Board ruling is a final disposition of the claim. The Appeal Board hearing is held in the applicant's district. It is a hearing before three members of the Pension Commission who have not previously dealt with the claim, and the applicant is there given an opportunity to appear personally with his representative who may be an Advocate from the Veterans' Bureau, or any other person whom he may nominate. He may call witnesses to support his claim and his Advocate has the right to examine and cross-examine witnesses and present argument to the Board. The services of the Veterans' Bureau are free to the applicant. The claimant is represented by a Bureau Advocate in practically 100 p.c. of all claims coming before Appeal Boards. The Pension Act provides that the Veterans' Bureau shall, in each case, prepare a complete summary of all relevant evidence on the departmental file.

Departmental reports covering the period from Sept. 1, 1939, to Mar. 31, 1946, show that 4,879 applications for Appeal Board hearing have been filed in connection with First World War claims. Of these, 915 have been granted and 3,642 refused. A number were withdrawn or have not yet reached decision. During the same period, 5,771 applications were filed by Second World War applicants and of these, 1,055 were granted and 3,137 refused. The Veterans' Bureau had approximately 7,000 pension claims under preparation, in varying stages of activity, as at Mar. 31, 1947.

In addition to assisting the applicant on entitlement claims, the Bureau Advocate is charged with the duty of advising and assisting ex-service personnel or other persons entitled to claim for pension or any phase of pension law or procedure which may have a bearing on the pension claim. There are a great variety of problems which come under the Advocates' attention in this category dealing with assessment