

Information concerning claims arising out of service during peacetime, civilian war pensions and allowances and the payment of pecuniary grants for gallantry awards will be found at pp. 1148-1149 of the 1948-49 edition of the Year Book.

Extension of the Canadian Pension System to Newfoundland Veterans.—In accordance with the Terms of Union, Canada agreed to make available to Newfoundland veterans and their dependants the same awards of pension as are available to Canadian veterans under similar circumstances.

All Newfoundland awards in force at the date of Union—Mar. 31, 1949—were reviewed by the Canadian Pension Commission and arrangements completed for the issue of the first payment pension cheques in Canadian funds so as to reach the recipients by the end of April, 1949.

For the convenience and assistance of Newfoundland veterans and their dependants, the Commission established a district office with a senior Pension Medical Examiner and staff at St. John's, which deals with inquiries, investigations, medical examinations, etc., pertaining to Newfoundland cases.

Veterans' Bureau.—The Veterans' Bureau was established in 1930 to assist the applicant for war disability pension and present his claim to the Canadian Pension Commission. (See 1947 Year Book, p. 1142.) The services of the Bureau are free to the applicant. Bureau Advocates assist not only ex-members of the military forces, but also those given disability pension rights under the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act. Claimants have been represented by Bureau Advocates in almost all the appeals that have been made.

In addition to assisting applicants on entitlement claims, Bureau Advocates are charged with the duty of advising and assisting ex-service personnel or other persons entitled to claim for pension on any phase of pension law or procedure which may have a bearing on the pension claim. In all offices across Canada they are called upon daily to advise and assist in matters quite apart from war disability pensions.

Departmental records show that a total of 2,225 applications for an Appeal Board hearing were filed during the fiscal year 1948-49; this compares with 1,517 filed in the previous fiscal year. Since Sept. 1, 1939, a total of 15,831 applications for Appeal Board hearings have been filed. The Veterans' Bureau had approximately 8,229 pension claims under preparation in varying stages of activity at Mar. 31, 1949.

Subsection 2.—War Veterans Allowances

The War Veterans' Allowance Act was introduced in 1930 to make provision for veterans who were incapable of maintaining themselves on attaining the age of 60 or at any age if permanently unemployable and, as a result, in need of financial assistance.

A new Act was passed in 1946 and this was further amended in 1948. A summary of the provisions of the Act is provided at pp. 1150-1151 of the 1948-49 edition of the Year Book.

From the inception of the Act to Mar. 31, 1949, a total of 59,870 awards were made by the War Veterans' Allowance Board. Of these 29,587 were discontinued because of death or other reasons leaving 30,283 recipients for whom there is an annual liability of \$18,290,177.