

The substantial increase in annual liability for both Wars in the 1949 figures resulted from the increase in the basic scale of pensions which was retroactive to Oct. 1, 1947.

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.

Veterans' Bureau.—The Veterans' Bureau, staffed by Pensions Advocates, most of whom are lawyers, 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. Pensions Advocates assist not only ex-members of the Armed Forces, but also those given disability pension rights under the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act. Claimants are represented by Pensions Advocates in almost all the appeals heard.

In addition to assisting applicants on entitlement claims, Pensions 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 such matters.

Departmental records show that a total of 2,048 applications for an Appeal Board hearing were filed during the fiscal year 1949-50; this compares with 2,225 filed in the previous fiscal year. Since Sept. 1, 1939, a total of 17,879 applications for Appeal Board hearings have been filed. The Veterans' Bureau had approximately 7,702 pension claims under preparation in varying stages of activity at Mar. 31, 1950.