

legs, arms, eyes, facial restoration prostheses, braces, belts, orthopaedic boots, etc.; others such as hearing aids, spectacles, trusses, surgical hosiery, etc., are purchased from manufacturers under contract.

The Branch also extends training in prosthetic manufacture to about five or six persons each year at the request of provincial or foreign government authorities.

During the fiscal year ended Mar. 31, 1955 about 65,000 persons were supplied with appliances, accessories, or maintenance service. Total issues numbered 124,408.

A Research and Development Section operates to apply scientific knowledge toward development of new designs, materials, methods, to the solution of special prosthetic problems, and to general improvement and development in the prosthetic field. Liaison is maintained with the National Research Council, Ottawa and with research committees in the United Kingdom and the United States. Staff training classes are arranged to instruct senior personnel with respect to newly developed appliances and processing techniques.

Dental Services.—As with any other form of treatment, dental treatment is provided by the Department to those veterans and other persons who are eligible under the various classes of the Veterans Treatment Regulations. This includes treatment provided at the request and expense of other Government Departments such as the Department of National Defence—for the Armed Services—and the Department of Justice—for the RCMP—and of other governments, such as those of the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Department maintains 18 full time and eight part time dental clinics in the various DVA hospitals and other institutions across Canada. There are 37 full time dental surgeons employed in these clinics. In localities where Departmental facilities are not available, treatment is supplied through the dentist-of-choice plan by civilian practitioners.

Dental treatments provided by the Department reached a peak in 1947-48 and since then have declined to approximately 19,000 cases per year involving about 125,000 operations.

Vetcraft Shops.—Vetcraft Shops are operated at Toronto and Montreal and small assembly is done in Winnipeg, Calgary and Regina, to provide sheltered employment for a number of disabled veterans. These shops produce poppies, emblems and wreaths which are sold by the Canadian Legion on Remembrance Day to obtain funds for general welfare work. Fifty-four veterans are employed regularly while homework assembly is distributed to about 50 other persons. Value of production for the 1954 campaign exceeded \$250,000.

Section 3.—Pensions and Allowances

The Canadian Pension Commission.—The Commission is a statutory body, the members of which are appointed by the Governor in Council. It is charged with the administration of the Pension Act and the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act and reports to Parliament through the Minister of Veterans Affairs. The Governor in Council may impose upon the Commission like duties in respect of any grants in the nature of pensions, etc. made under any statute other than the Pension Act.

The Head Office of the Commission is in the new Veterans Memorial Building in Ottawa and in each District Office of the Department the Commission is represented by Pension Medical Examiners and staff.

It is the responsibility of the Commission to adjudicate upon claims for injury or disease resulting in disability or death during service with the Navy, Army or Air Force of Canada during war or peacetime. Provision is also made whereby the Commission may supplement certain awards made by the British or Allied Governments, as set out herein, up to the amount of Canadian rates, during the recipients' residence in Canada.