

5.—Summary of House Construction under the Veterans' Land Act as at Mar. 31, 1957

Item	Full-Time Farming	Small Holdings	Commercial Fishing	Provincial Lands	Federal Lands	City-Size Lots	Total
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Houses completed (from 1942).....	1,457	18,036	269	1,257	112	407	21,538
Houses under construction.....	160	1,020	7	178	10	463	1,838
Houses projected.....	240	574	9	128	2	2	955
Net Applications for New Housing	1,857	19,630	285	1,563	124	872	24,331

Section 5.—Pensions Advocates

Veterans Bureau.—The Veterans Bureau, which has completed its twenty-sixth year of operation, is a branch of the Department of Veterans Affairs and has an office under the direction of a District Pensions Advocate in all districts in Canada in which offices of the Department are situated.

During the year ended Mar. 31, 1957, 5,861 claims were submitted to the Pension Commission, with 8,103 in preparation at the end of the year. These figures showed little change from the 5,833 claims submitted during the previous fiscal year and 8,276 in preparation at the end of that year.

The duties of Pensions Advocates, most of whom are lawyers, are to assist former members of the Armed Forces and their dependants and former members of the various auxiliary organizations, such as merchant seamen, firefighters and others, in preparing and submitting claims to the Canadian Pension Commission. They also appear as counsel for applicants before the Appeal Boards of the Commission. No charge is made for the services of the Bureau.

Section 6.—Veterans Pensions

Previous issues of the Year Book contain information on the development of Canadian pension legislation, together with yearly statistics of numbers and liabilities. In the 1956 edition, pension data is given on pp. 304-305.

On Mar. 14, 1957, the Minister of Finance, in his Budget Speech, announced an upward revision in the basic scale of pensions under the Pension Act and an increase in the maximum helplessness allowance payable under the Act, to become effective July 1, 1957. This revision was given Parliamentary sanction in April 1957. It represents the third increase in basic pensions in the past ten years, the current rates being exactly double those which were in effect from 1920 to 1947. Over 159,000 disability pensioners benefited from the increases at an estimated increase in annual liability of \$15,150,248. Additionally, the estimated increase in annual liability for dependants, widows and parents, will be \$4,647,259.

The following gives a comparison of the new rates with those formerly in effect:—

Item	Former Monthly Rate	Monthly Rate Effective July 1, 1957
	\$	\$
Single pensioner, 100 p.c. disability.....	125	150
Married pensioner, 100 p.c. disability.....	170	200
Pensioned widow.....	100	115
Dependent parent, maximum award.....	75	90
Two dependent parents, maximum award.....	100	115