

Assistance Fund.—Supplementary financial assistance is provided by the Assistance Fund to recipients under the War Veterans Allowance Act (*see* p. 298) who are in need. Assistance may be given as a continuing monthly grant in accordance with a formula which includes costs of shelter, fuel, food, clothing, personal care and certain health needs, or in single grants to meet needs not covered by the formula. During the two years ended Mar. 31, 1957, the maximum assistance available from the Fund was \$120 and \$144 per annum respectively to single and married recipients of WVA. These amounts were increased to \$240 and \$180 per year respectively as a result of the increases in rates and ceilings of the WVA Act which became effective on July 1, 1957. A further increase from \$180 to \$300 became effective Nov. 1, 1957, for married recipients of WVA.

Field work for the Fund is done almost entirely by the Welfare Services Branch which, through counselling and referral, also assists applicants in other ways. Since a monthly Assistance Fund grant may be continued without interruption until there is a change in the recipient's financial circumstances, the number of people assisted in any fiscal year is greater than the number applying during that period. Fund activity during the years ended Mar. 31, 1957 and 1958, was as follows:—

<u>Item</u>	<u>Years Ended—</u>	
	<u>Mar. 31, 1957</u>	<u>Mar. 31, 1958</u>
Persons assisted	No. 8,331	11,819
Persons applying during year	" 4,765	6,497
Applicants assisted	" 4,273	5,870
Proportion of applicants assisted	p.c. 90	90
Fund expenditures during year	\$ 741,805	1,448,278
Proportion of expenditures given in monthly grants	p.c. 78	85
Persons in receipt of continuing monthly grants	No. 5,949	8,516

Education and Training.—Eligibility for training under the Veterans Rehabilitation Act and the Veterans Benefit Act, 1954, has lapsed except for disability pensioners and for a few programs delayed by personal illness. Still in training in universities at the end of March 1958 were 49 World War II veterans and 20 veterans of the Korean campaign. In vocational courses there were 19 and 12, respectively.

The Pensioners Training Regulations (P.C. 1955/134) provide training for pensioned veterans of World War I and for pensioned ex-members of Regular and Reserve Forces. Training must be designed to offset disability and to equip for available, suitable employment. At the end of the 1957-58 fiscal year seven such pensioners were in university courses and 12 were in vocational courses.

The Children of War Dead (Education Assistance) Act provides help with post-secondary school training for pensioned children of deceased veterans, whose deaths have been ruled by the Canadian Pension Commission to have been attributable to or incurred during war service. Eligible students who attend approved training institutions receive an allowance of \$25 a month if under age 21, and \$60 a month if over that age. Prescribed fees not exceeding \$500 for any one academic year may be paid on behalf of each student. Up to Mar. 31, 1958, 1,106 applications were approved under this Act.

Awaiting Returns Allowance.—The purpose of the Awaiting Returns Allowance is to assist in the maintenance of the veteran and his family during the early stages of a venture when the income therefrom is insufficient for that purpose. Because of the time limits imposed under the Veterans Rehabilitation Act, only veterans who settle under the Veterans' Land Act and who make application for the allowance within one year of such settlement are now eligible. The allowance is available for the period that the net income, plus the allowance, does not exceed the maximum rates—\$50 a month for a single veteran and \$70 a month for a married veteran (plus additional allowance for children)—up to 52 weeks.

Up to Mar. 31, 1958, 62,847 veterans, including 59 ex-members of the Special Force, were approved for the allowance and 90 p.c. were discontinued as established. The total amount expended on this benefit from inception to Mar. 31, 1958, was \$27,210,026 and at that date there were 147 active cases.