

**Training for Veterans.**—The period of eligibility for training under the Veterans Rehabilitation Act for World War II veterans and under the Veterans Benefit Act for those who served overseas during the Korean operation has expired except for a few special cases. However, the Pensioners Training Regulations provide a continuing authority for the training of pensioned veterans and of ex-members of the peacetime forces with disabilities attributed to military service. These Regulations enable a pensioner who, because of his disabilities, cannot continue in a former line of work to qualify for another occupation. At Dec. 31, 1961, trainees on strength totalled 43, of whom 18 were registered in vocational and 25 in university courses.

**Educational Assistance to Children of War Dead.**—The Children of War Dead (Education Assistance) Act provides, for eligible children, substantial aid to defray the costs of post-secondary school education. Entitlement is limited to four academic years, or 36 months, whichever is the lesser.\* This is designed to provide assistance up to a first university degree, or completion of training for occupations such as registered nurse. Fees are limited to a maximum of \$500 for any one student in any one academic year, which parallels costs payable on behalf of veterans training under the Veterans Rehabilitation Act. Training allowance during actual attendance on course is \$25 a month up to age 21. If the student is still eligible for training after age 21, when payment of pension ceases, the allowance is increased to \$60 a month.† All benefits cease at the end of the academic year in which the student attains age 25.‡

As early as October 1945, attention was directed to the plight of children made fatherless by World War II, when a brief on the subject was presented by the Dominion Command, Canadian Legion, to the Special Committee on Veterans Affairs. As time passed, interest continued to grow. The Nov. 20, 1948 meeting of the Advisory Committee on University Training for Veterans included in its agenda "ways and means of assuring educational opportunity for sons and daughters of veterans who either lost their lives in the War or who are in receipt of total disability pensions". Canada's sole provision at that time was continuation of pension to age 21, if the child remained in school or university. On Feb. 8, 1951, the Advisory Committee recommended "payment of tuition fees plus an allowance which, added to pension, would provide \$60 a month while the son or daughter of a veteran who died as a result of war service was in actual attendance in a post-secondary institution of higher learning". Action on this recommendation was deferred pending the report of the Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters and Sciences (the Massey Commission). It was considered that if this report resulted in a sufficient supply of adequate scholarships to aid all pensioned children who qualified academically, the proposed legislation to be administered by DVA would be unnecessary. This did not occur and by 1952 firm plans were being formulated which resulted in the passage of the Children of War Dead (Education Assistance) Act, effective July 1, 1953.

Under the Act, the amount payable for each student during an academic year was calculated to approximate the value of the scholarships recommended in the report of the Massey Commission. The original Act limited post-secondary school assistance to students who were eligible for pension because of the war-connected deaths of their fathers. It authorized the payment of fees and costs up to \$500 for any one academic year and an allowance of \$25 per month for the lesser of four academic years or 36 months of training. In September 1958 the Act was amended to include some children previously excluded on technical grounds and to increase the allowance to \$60 a month to eligible students after the cessation of pension at age 21. It also brought in students whose fathers lost their lives as a direct result of peacetime military service. These amendments increased the number of eligible children and extended the life of the Act indefinitely. Children excluded from original calculations are becoming eligible because of the deaths of pensioned veterans.

\* Effective June 1, 1962, extension permissible at Ministerial discretion.

† Legislation amended March 1962 to change amount to \$79 a month.

‡ Legislation amended March 1962 to change maximum age to 30 years, effective June 1, 1962.