

## Section 4.—Veterans' Bureau

The main duties of the Veterans' Bureau, which is a branch of the Department of Veterans Affairs, are to assist former members of the Armed Forces and their dependants, and former members of the various auxiliary organizations, such as merchant seamen, fire-fighters and others, in preparing and presenting pension claims to the Canadian Pension Commission.

Now in its thirty-second year of operation, the Veterans' Bureau is headed at Ottawa by an officer known as the Chief Pensions Advocate, who is assisted by pensions advocates, most of whom are lawyers, located in all districts in Canada in which offices of the Department are maintained, and at the district office in London, England.

The pensions advocates also appear as counsel for applicants before the Appeal Boards of the Commission, and, in addition, they advise pensioners and applicants upon any provision of the Pension Act or phase of pension law or administration that may have a bearing on the applicant's pension claim. No charge is made for the services of the Bureau.

During the year ended Dec. 31, 1962, the Veterans' Bureau submitted a total of 7,095 claims to the Canadian Pension Commission for adjudication. This number included 1,322 claims presented to Appeal Boards of the Canadian Pension Commission of which 51 p.c. were wholly or partially granted. During the same year, the Bureau submitted 1,298 straight entitlement claims to the Canadian Pension Commission, based on service in World War I and peacetime, of which 192 were wholly or partially granted. However, with respect to claims based on service in World War II and Korea, out of a total of 3,357 presented, 1,153 were wholly or partially granted. In addition, 1,118 miscellaneous claims were submitted to the Canadian Pension Commission (including applications for leave to re-open following an Appeal Board hearing, claims for higher degree of aggravation, increased assessment, retroactive awards, compassionate pension awards, etc.), of which 493 were wholly or partially granted.

## Section 5.—Veterans Pensions

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

It is the responsibility of the Commission to adjudicate on claims for injury or disease resulting in disability or death, incurred during service with the Canadian Navy, Army or Air Force during war or peacetime. The Commission may also supplement, up to Canadian rates, awards of pension to or in respect of Canadians for disability or death suffered as a result of service in the British or Allied Forces during World War I or World War II, or may pay pension at Canadian rates in such cases where the claim has been rejected by the government of the country concerned. The Commission's representatives, called pension medical examiners, are located in most of the district offices of the Department of Veterans Affairs across the country.

**The Pension Act.**—Previous issues of the Year Book contain information on the development of Canadian pension legislation together with yearly statistics of numbers and liabilities. The Pension Act has not been amended since 1961. The major amendments at that time, which resulted in increased benefits, are summarized in the 1962 Year Book, p. 287.

Disability pension is payable to former members of the Armed Forces who suffered "the loss or lessening of the power to will and to do any normal mental or physical act" as a result of military service in the Canadian Navy, Army or Air Force since the com-