

Over 91 p.c. of the amount paid in pensions is distributed in Canada and the balance to pensioners residing in other parts of the world. While the total number of awards in force is 183,174, the number of persons on whose behalf pension is payable under the Pension Act is approximately one-half million. These include disability pensioners, their wives and children, and their dependent parents; widows and their children; orphan children; and dependent parents of deceased members of the Forces.

The total number of World War I disability and dependant pensions in force at Dec. 31, 1961 was 58,339 and for World War II, 122,904. During 1962, World War I pensions decreased by 2,389 and World War II pensions increased by 230; 203 new awards of disability pension were authorized in respect of World War I veterans and 2,251 in respect of World War II veterans.

## Section 6.—War Veterans Allowances and Civilian War Allowances

**War Veterans Allowance Board.**—The War Veterans Allowance Board is a statutory body that administers the War Veterans Allowance Act and reports to Parliament through the Minister of Veterans Affairs.\* The Board, consisting of eight members, including a chairman and a deputy chairman, appointed by the Governor in Council, is a quasi-judicial body and is independent as far as its decisions are concerned. The Minister of Veterans Affairs is charged with the administration of the Act.

During the past year, the Board was given the responsibility for administering Part XI of the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act, which authorizes payment of allowances to certain groups of civilians who performed meritorious service in a theatre of actual war during either World War I or World War II. The provisions of this Part are similar to those of the War Veterans Allowance Act.

**War Veterans Allowance Act.**—The War Veterans Allowance Act came into force on Sept. 1, 1930, its purpose being to aid war veterans who, because of the hardships of service, had become pre-aged and no longer able to hold their places on the labour market. The administration of the Act was entrusted to what was then the War Veterans Allowance Committee, later re-designated the War Veterans Allowance Board.

The Act has been amended 11 times since 1930, its scope broadened and the allowance rates and income ceilings increased from time to time. By the amendments of 1950, the Act established District Authorities in the regional districts of the Department of Veterans Affairs, granting to them the full and unrestricted power and authority and exclusive jurisdiction to deal with and adjudicate upon all matters and questions arising under the Act relating to the award, increase, decrease, suspension or cancellation of any allowance awarded or paid under the Act. The members of a District Authority are employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, appointed by the Minister with the approval of the Governor in Council. A District Authority consists of not less than four and not more than seven persons, its strength being related to the size of district and the volume of matters to be handled. There are 19 District Authorities, including the Foreign Countries District Authority located in Ottawa. An application for an allowance must be made to the District Authority of the regional district in which the applicant resides.

The War Veterans Allowance Board acts as an appeal court for applicants and recipients aggrieved by the decision of the District Authority, and the Board may, on its own motion, review and alter or reverse any adjudication of a District Authority. The Board is also responsible for guiding and instructing the District Authorities in the interpretation of policy, and for advising the Minister with respect to regulations governing the procedure to be followed in matters coming before District Authorities for adjudication.

During 1962, the Board reviewed 7,305 recipients' cases, comprising referrals by District Authorities and Treasury Officers, rulings on service eligibility and guidance on policy interpretation. The Board conceded service eligibility for 433 applicants under the

\* A detailed outline of the Board's functions and responsibilities is given in the 1961 Year Book, p. 302.