

PART V.—VETERANS SERVICES*

The Department of Veterans Affairs administers most of the legislation comprising the Veterans Charter and provides administration facilities for the Canadian Pension Commission, which administers the Pension Act and Parts I to X of the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act; for the War Veterans Allowance Board, which administers the War Veterans Allowance Act and Part XI of the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act; and for the Secretary-General (Canada) of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The main benefits now available to veterans consist of medical treatment for those eligible to receive it, land settlement and home construction assistance, educational assistance for children of the war dead, veterans insurance, general welfare services, unused re-establishment credit, disability and widows' pensions and war veterans allowances. The work of the Department, excepting the administration of the Veterans' Land Act, is carried out through 17 district offices and five sub-district offices in Canada and one district office in England. There are seven Veterans' Land Act district offices and 25 regional offices established to administer the benefits of the Act.

Noteworthy during 1962 were the ceremonies held in Ottawa and in several provincial capitals to mark the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Peace of Vereeniging, which ended the South African War. At one of these ceremonies, the Book of Remembrance containing the names of 267 Canadians who gave their lives in that war and of 16 Canadians who died in the Nile Expedition in 1885 was dedicated by His Excellency the Governor General. At a similar ceremony held on Nov. 11, the Book of Remembrance honouring the 516 Canadians who died in the United Nations operations to restore peace in Korea was dedicated. These Books are displayed temporarily in the Memorial Chamber of the Parliament Buildings at Ottawa.

Section 1.—Treatment Services

Treatment Activity.—The Department of Veterans Affairs, through its Treatment Services Branch, provides medical, dental, and prosthetic services for entitled veterans throughout Canada. Service is also provided for members of the Armed Forces, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and the wards of other governments or departments at the request and expense of the authorities concerned.

The primary responsibility of the Branch is to provide examination and treatment to disabled pensioners for their pensionable disabilities. Other main groups of veterans receiving treatment are war veterans allowance recipients, veterans whose service and need make them eligible for domiciliary care, and veterans whose service and financial circumstances render them eligible for free treatment, or at a cost adjusted to their ability to pay. If beds are available, any veteran may receive treatment in a Departmental hospital on a guarantee of payment of the cost of treatment. The pensioner receives treatment regardless of his place of residence, but service to other veterans is available in Canada only. Where Departmental facilities are not available, the eligible veteran may receive treatment at the expense of the Department in an outside hospital by a doctor of his own choice.

Under the federal-provincial hospital insurance program, DVA hospitals are recognized for the provision of insured services to veterans. Arrangements have been made for the payment of any necessary premiums on behalf of veterans who are in receipt of War Veterans Allowance. The Veterans Treatment Regulations remain the authority for the treatment of veterans (and others) in DVA institutions and elsewhere under Departmental responsibility, regardless of whether or not the hospitalization is at the expense of the insurance plan.

* Prepared by the Department of Veterans Affairs, Ottawa.