

if married, or less than \$70 per month, if single. Various proposals, some of them involving much larger payments than these, were put forth on behalf of the returned soldiers, and the whole question was the subject of exhaustive inquiry by a special committee appointed by resolution of the House of Commons on September 18, 1919. The committee presented their fourth and final report on October 31, 1919. In rejecting three alternative proposals involving, in addition to \$30,000,000 annually paid in pensions, expenditures estimated at \$1,000,000,000 for the first, \$400,000,000 for the second and \$200,000,000 for the third, the committee found that any one of them would be seriously detrimental to the financial interests of the country, would involve obligations to meet which no satisfactory scheme of taxation had hitherto been devised, and by inflating the currency and thus lowering the purchasing power of money, would increase the high cost of living to the disadvantage of the soldiers themselves.

The cost to the country of the war service gratuities which were paid through the Department of Militia and Defence, was approximately \$164,000,000.

#### **PREFERENCE FOR CIVIL SERVICE POSITIONS.**

A special preference in respect of vacancies in the service of the Dominion Government was extended to returned soldiers by an Order in Council of February, 1918, which contained the following clauses:—

(a) In all competitive examinations held under the Civil Service Amendment Act, 1908, persons who have been on active service overseas in the military or naval forces of His Majesty, or of any of the allies of His Majesty, who have left such service with an honourable record or who have been honourably discharged, and who obtain sufficient marks to pass such examinations, shall irrespective of the marks they have obtained, be placed in the order of merit on the list of successful candidates above all other candidates.

(b) The provisions of any statute or regulation prescribing an age limit and physical requirements with respect to any appointment in the Civil Service shall not apply to any such person, if the Commission certifies that he is of such an age and in such a satisfactory physical condition that he is then able to perform the duties of the office and will probably be able to continue to do so for a reasonable period after his appointment.

These clauses were later incorporated into the Civil Service Act of the same year (8-9 George V, chap. 12). The further concession was granted of exemption from all examination fees, while by the Civil Service Amendment Act passed at the autumn session of 1919 (10 Geo. V, chap. 10), all the privileges accorded to the returned