

Prosthetic Services.—The Prosthetic Services Branch of the Department of Veterans Affairs supplies, by manufacture or procurement, all orthopædic and surgical appliances prescribed by the Treatment Services Branch. The maintenance and renewal of such prostheses for all eligible cases is also the concern of the Branch. A large modern centre at Sunnybrook Hospital, Toronto, together with 11 district centres and five visiting centres in the principal cities, extends the manufacturing, maintenance and fitting service across the country. This system ensures a standardization of parts of major prostheses, a control of quality of supplies and availability of service at all times.

A Research and Development Section at Toronto is constantly at work on improvements and, in co-operation with the manufacturing services, conducts the field-testing of new developments. Close contact is maintained with the National Research Council and with research committees in the United States and the United Kingdom.

During the year ended Mar. 31, 1954, 61,843 persons were supplied with appliances or accessories compared with 61,488 during the previous fiscal year. Total issues during these two years numbered 119,963 and 117,375, respectively.

Vetcraft Shops.—The Department operates Vetcraft Shops at Toronto and Montreal giving sheltered employment to disabled veterans. These shops manufacture poppy emblems and wreaths for sale by the Canadian Legion on Remembrance Day. An average of 47 veterans and 24 homeworkers are employed. Production value was approximately \$230,500 for the 1953 campaign.

Section 3.—Pensions and Allowances

The Canadian Pension Commission.—The Commission administers the Pension Act and the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act and reports to Parliament through the Minister of Veterans Affairs. The Head Office of the Commission is at Ottawa and representatives, known as Pension Medical Examiners, are located at each District Office of the Department.

It is the responsibility of the Commission to adjudicate upon claims for injury or disease resulting in disability or death during service with the Navy, Army or Air Force of Canada, and to consider claims for the supplementation of awards to Canadians who suffered disability or death while serving in the Armed Forces of the United Kingdom or its allies in World War I or World War II.

The Pension Act.—Under the Pension Act (R.S.C. 1952, c. 207 and amendments):—

- (1) Pensions payable to veterans of the Fenian Raid and Northwest Rebellion under authority of Orders in Council are supplemented to the Canadian scale.
- (2) Pensions payable by Great Britain on account of Canadians who served in the South African War are supplemented to the Canadian scale.
- (3) Pensions for peacetime service prior to World War I payable under Orders in Council are supplemented to the Canadian scale.
- (4) Pensions are paid in respect of service in World Wars I and II for injury or disease or the aggravation thereof resulting in disability or death attributable to or incurred during service.
- (5) Pensions for peacetime service between World Wars I and II and subsequent thereto are paid when the injury or disease or aggravation thereof resulting in disability or death arose out of or was directly connected with service.
- (6) Special provision was made for the Canadian Army Special Force and for those who had served in a theatre of operations prior to November 1, 1953.