

In previous issues of the Year Book information is given regarding the development of Canadian pension legislation and yearly statistics regarding numbers and liability. As at Mar. 31, 1954, pensions in force were as follows:—

	<u>Payable</u>	<u>Pensions</u>	<u>Liability</u>
		No.	\$
To dependants.....		33,538	33,691,738
For disability.....		159,133	91,507,288
<b>TOTALS.....</b>		<u>192,671</u>	<u>125,199,026</u>

The pension paid for a total disability to a former member of the Armed Forces of the rank of major and below, with a wife and two or more children, amounts to a personal pension of \$125 monthly, an additional \$45 for his wife, \$20 for the first child, \$15 for the second, and \$12 for each additional child. If he is helpless and in need of attendance, he is granted a helplessness allowance, which might vary from a minimum of \$480 to a maximum of \$1,400 per annum depending on the amount of attendance required. In the case of the blind, where the attendance required is not constant, the helplessness award is \$960 per annum.

A pensioned widow of a deceased member of the forces who held the rank of major or lower rank receives \$100 per month, with \$40 for the first child, \$30 for the second and \$24 for each additional child. If she remarries, she is granted one year's pension as a final payment and pension usually continues for her children. Pension for a boy expires when he reaches the age of 16, and for a girl at 17. However, it may be continued to the age of 21 if the child is making satisfactory progress in a course of education approved by the Commission.

During the 1953-54 Session of Parliament the Pension Act was amended to provide additional pension for legally adopted children, for the wives of World War I pensioners married after Apr. 30, 1951, and before May 1, 1954, and for housekeepers of divorced pensioners with minor children. Widows of deceased pensioners who were not eligible only because their marriage to the pensioner was contracted after Apr. 30, 1951, may now be considered for pension if the marriage was contracted prior to May 1, 1954. Awards of helplessness allowance, which heretofore could not be paid during the period the pensioner was cared for under the jurisdiction of DVA, may now be paid if the pensioner is receiving out-patient treatment and is otherwise qualified. None of these benefits was made retroactive.

**Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act.**—This Act extends pension legislation to a number of civilian groups whose work was closely associated with the World War II war effort, including merchant seamen, auxiliary services personnel, fire fighters who served in the United Kingdom, special constables with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, overseas welfare workers, etc.

**Veterans' Bureau.**—The Veterans' Bureau, staffed by Pensions Advocates, most of whom are lawyers, was established in 1930 to assist those seeking war disability or dependant's pension in presenting their claims to the Canadian Pension Commission (*see* 1947 Year Book, p. 1142). This service is also given to persons applying for pension under the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act. There are District Pensions Advocates in all district offices of the Department and the service they provide is free of charge. Most applications for pension are handled in this way and, as at Mar. 31, 1954, the Bureau had approximately 6,200 active claims in hand.