

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) Supplementation to Canadian rates may be made during residence in Canada for (a) men who were domiciled in Canada at the outbreak of World War I, or were resident in Canada at the date of commencement of World War I but were unable to secure a Canadian domicile by reason of the fact that they had not attained their majority at the time they left Canada for service, and who were pensioned for disabilities attributable to service in the Imperial Forces during that war; (b) men who were domiciled in Canada at any time during the four years preceding the outbreak of World War II and who left Canada and enlisted with the forces of the United Kingdom, and were awarded a disability pension by the Government of that country; (c) men who were domiciled in Canada at the outbreak of World War I or II, or resident in Canada at the date of commencement of World War I or World War II but were unable to secure a Canadian domicile by reason of the fact that they had not attained their majority at the time they left Canada for service in the forces of countries allied with the United Kingdom, and were awarded a pension by the Governments of such countries.
- (6) 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.

Under special legislation provision was made to extend the benefits of the Pension Act to those who had enlisted in the Canadian Army Special Force and for those who had served in a theatre of operations prior to Nov. 1, 1953. Also, the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act provides pension legislation for a number of civilian groups whose work was closely associated with the World War II war effort (*see* p. 305).

Schedule A of the Pension Act sets out the rates at which disability pension can be paid. These rates are determined on a percentage basis in accordance with the degree of disability found to exist on medical examination from time to time. There are twenty classes covering disabilities from 5 p.c. to 100 p.c., and a twenty-first class which provides for a final payment for those whose disability is assessed at less than 5 p.c. The pension for a total disability, for the rank of Major and below, is \$125 per month. If the pensioner is married and resides with or materially supports a wife and children he is entitled to \$45 a month additional pension for his wife, \$20 a month for his first child, \$15 a month for his second child and \$12 a month for the third and any subsequent children. Slightly higher rates of personal pension are provided for those whose rank was higher than that of Major but the additional pension for such ranks is the same. If a pensioner is helpless and in need of attendance he may be 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. For blind persons, where constant attendance is not required, the helplessness award is \$960 per annum.

Schedule B of the Act sets out the rate at which pension may be paid for deaths incurred on or attributable to service. The widow of a deceased member of the Forces, whose rank was Major or below, is entitled to \$100 a month for herself and monthly payments of \$40 for the first child, \$30 for the second and \$24 for each additional child. A child's pension expires when a boy reaches the age of 16 and a girl reaches the age of 17. However such pension may be continued to the age of 21 if the child is making satisfactory progress in a course of education approved by the Commission.