

Request No. 3.

Pensionable Tuberculous Ex-Service men shall be paid an irreducible pension at the rate of 50%.

This request is in accordance with the recommendation of the Sanatorium Board of Consultants, 1922, (vide Confidential Report, which has been published.)

We are assured that Sanatorium Superintendents are of the opinion that a request for a minimum pension is justifiable and necessary.

We shall be glad to supply evidence in this record with regard to the question of cost. We are satisfied that this matter of minimum pension at the rate of 50% would not involve any additional expenditure (See following remarks.)

The request is to ensure that any ex-service man, who has had an adult exacerbation of tuberculosis should never be forced to engage in work which is certain to result in a breakdown, involving a materially decreased expectancy of life and the necessity of further sanatorium treatment, with pay and allowances, which costs more than full pension.

The following facts are submitted for your information:-

1. Page 41, 21st annual report of the Canadian Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis:-

"An investigation of the results obtained amongst the patients treated at this Sanatorium at Saranac Lake, N.Y., wherefor many years a reasonable effort has been made to restrict admission to the early and more favourable type of case, shows that after twenty years over 80% of those discharged from the Institution are dead, of whom 92%, or 75% of the total, had died of tuberculosis."

2. The Board of Tuberculosis Sanatorium Consultants in their Report No. 6 (1-12-20), page 11, Paragraphs 1-4, state that the British Inter-Departmental Committee recommended the establishment of a minimum rate of 50% pension and the T.B. Board of Consultants in their conclusions felt that this was desirable and justified page 41, paragraph 6.

Request No 4.

The Association requests that the regulation of the Board of Pension Commissioners, requiring that tuberculosis make its appearance within one year subsequent to the discharge of an ex-service man from the forces, be superseded by an amendment to the Pension Act to provide that:-

"Where tuberculosis appears in an Ex-service man within three years from his discharge from the Forces, it shall be presumed to be related to service and the disability resulting therefrom shall be pensionable. Provided that nothing in this (proposed) section shall prevent the payment of pension where the appearance of the disease is later than three years, when evidence is produced that shows the disease to have been incurred on, or aggravated by service.

In support of our request, we have to advise that the United States practice is even wider than that which we are asking, vide pages 11-13, "World War Veterans' Act 1924" 68 Congress Publication, No. 242, United States' Act.

We have been informed that the reason for the adoption of such legislation in the United States was because of absolute impossibility of any chest specialist definitely determining or stating that the tuberculous disease was not caused by service after a lapse of two to three years.

In addition to removing the present grave hardship, the acceptance of this request would also eliminate in a great measure the necessity of appeal proceedings in a very large number of cases.