

C242132

P. C. 7249

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That it is a great convenience to such persons entitled and a great saving to them of the proportionately large expense of obtaining probate of the last Will of the deceased, or administration of the estate where there is an intestacy, to have the amounts of such balances paid by the banks to the credit of the Receiver-General of Canada and distributed with the service estate by the Estates Branch;

That numerous requests have been made for the Department to adopt such practice;

That during the War 1914-1918 such practice was found beneficial and was authorized by Orders-in-Council of 11th June 1917 (P.C. 1595) in respect to officers only, and 3rd June 1918 (P.C. 1311) in respect to all ranks, for balances not exceeding in all \$400.00, and the bank concerned relieved from further liability and saved harmless in respect of the amount thereof;

That during the present War the banks concerned have expressed their willingness, on condition of the Government of Canada giving the same relief from liability, to transfer such balances of deceased members to the credit of the Receiver-General to the intent that such balances be paid out by the Receiver-General to such beneficiaries as the Administrator of Estates shall determine are, according to law, entitled thereto;

That the rates of pay and allowances in force in the present War are considerably higher than those in the War 1914-1918 and accordingly it would not be inappropriate to increase said \$400.00 - amount to \$600.00;

That it is desirable that such small bank balances should be dealt with accordingly;

That many instances have been found wherein infants, being persons under the age of twenty-one years, are entitled to share in the estate of a deceased member and each such share consists of or represents only a small sum of money;

That in the administration of such estates under the provisions of the said Regulations, no distribution may be made of any such share until the infant entitled attains the age of twenty-one years, and the amount thereof must accordingly in the meantime be held at the credit of the Receiver-General for a period which in some cases will extend in excess of twenty years;

That this procedure tends toward and frequently results in hardship to the widow of the deceased or the guardian, relative or person who has, or assumes, the care of the infant, and it has been urged that the small sum of money involved should be made immediately available for the present maintenance, education and benefit of the infant during minority rather than years later when majority is attained;

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