

provisions of the Pension Act applicable to such persons during their service in a theatre of operations and consequently any disease or injury suffered during such service was pensionable unless resulting from improper conduct.

The special force pensions as of the 31st of March, 1954 were as follows:

There were 874 disability pensions with an annual liability of \$341,357. There were 128 dependent pensions with an annual liability of \$161,808. There was a total of 1,002 pensions with a total annual liability of \$503,165. In addition, there were 144 gratuities for less than 5 per cent disability which have been paid.

The benefits of the Veterans Land Act are available to members of the Canadian forces who served in Korea before July 27, 1953, or who are in receipt of a pension under section 5 of the Veterans Benefit Act, except that the director may not grant further assistance to any such veteran if, at the date of his discharge, he has a subsisting contract with the director or has already earned his conditional grant. Where the contract or agreement of a veteran was rescinded or otherwise terminated prior to his discharge, he may become eligible if he reimburses the Crown in the amount of any loss suffered by the Crown out of his previous establishment. Statistics on special force applications under the Veterans Land Act to March 31, 1954, are as follows: Number of applications received, 236; number of applications withdrawn or cancelled, 40; number who were declined qualification, 57; number qualified, 86; number approved for financial assistance, 38; number for whom disbursements have been made, 34.

The benefits of the Veterans Insurance Act as available to veterans of World War II are continued to veterans of special force service in a theatre of operations, including both those who have been discharged and those who have chosen to remain in the regular forces. The period of eligibility continues until October 31, 1958. The widows of those who died during or after such service become eligible for the unexpired balance of their husbands' period of eligibility.

Seven policies have been issued to Korean veterans and one policy to a widow of a Korean veteran.

There are also provisions in regard to reinstatement in civil employment, veterans' business and professional loans, the Civil Service Act, the Superannuation Act and the Unemployment Insurance Act, but with the exception of the last, these are not interesting statistically. However, in regard to the Unemployment Insurance Act, contributions are paid to the unemployment insurance fund on behalf of men who have served since July 5, 1950. If ex-members of the forces have served for at least 91 days they are guaranteed a minimum of three months' protection under that Act. As of March 31, 1954, \$1,731,578.48 has been paid into the unemployment insurance fund by this department in behalf of 26,054 veterans. These provisions which combine the protection granted by way of "out of work" allowances and under the U.I.C. Act in the World War II "Veterans' Charter" have proven effective and satisfactory.

And finally, Korean veterans who have had service in a theatre of operation as defined in section 2 of the Veterans Benefit Act were made eligible for War Veterans Allowance by 1952 amendments to the War Veterans Allowance Act, section 30 (7).

Mr. MACDOUGALL: Mr. Chairman, the deputy minister mentioned something earlier about a subsisting contract; what does that mean?

The CHAIRMAN: Existing contract.

Mr. MACDOUGALL: I am sorry, I misunderstood.

The WITNESS: I am supplied with this information by the director of the Veterans Land Act.