

parties. Accordingly, I am bringing before you in an informal way a series of measures that have already been enacted by the Governor in Council under authority of the War Measures Act, with the request that you examine them and give to the House your advice as to the form in which they should be enacted by parliament.

For your convenience the legal officers have refined and consolidated the orders in council into the form of draft bills, so that you may follow the proposals closely. They have also prepared dossiers of the orders in council and regulations upon which the draft bills are based, so that you can trace the history of each measure and understand its purpose and philosophy. Before we settle down to the detailed consideration of the various measures, I shall now outline their broad principles.

#### PENSIONS

With respect to pensions, there are three groups of amendments depending for their present authority upon the War Measures Act and requiring action by parliament, in order that their effect may be continued beyond the expiry of the government's war emergency powers:

1. Changes affecting former members of the forces who served in the first great war.

2. Provisions affecting members of the forces who served in the recent war (which is described in the Pension Act as the war with the German Reich).

3. Provisions affecting certain classes of pensioners who were not members of the forces but who contributed important national service in their civilian capacities under wartime conditions. These groups are (a) merchant seamen (including Canadian salt water fishermen); (b) auxiliary services; (c) The corps of (civilian) Canadian fire fighters; (d) special constable guards of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police; (e) members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police; (f) air raid precautions workers; (g) civil government employees.

Early in my remarks, I referred to the fact that, in 1944, certain date-lines were advanced making wives, widows and children of former members of the forces eligible for pension providing marriage or birth took place prior to May 1, 1944. It is desirable that this provision be now incorporated in the Pension Act.

The only other amendment affecting the war of 1914-18 has also already been mentioned. It is that which increases from \$15 to \$30 a month the pension which may be paid a dependent parent of a deceased member of the forces, notwithstanding the payment of pension to a widow or children.

Of those changes which peculiarly affect persons who served in the recent war, the first is that which established regulations pertaining to female members of the forces. You will remember that, in the first instance, women members of the forces were made pensionable at only two-thirds of the rates applicable to male members of the forces. This was later raised to four-fifths and finally to complete parity.

In the original regulations which date from October 1st, 1941, there was a provision that no dependents of a woman member of the forces should be pensionable. While it is still true that the widower of a member of the forces is not pensionable, the commission has been given a discretionary authority to award pension with respect to children. Lest there by any misunderstanding, these provisions do not arise from any question of legitimacy or illegitimacy, but were based on the proposition that a father is primarily responsible for the welfare and upbringing of his children. The conferring of discretionary power upon