

8. In view of the fact that it is now nearly eighteen years since the armistice and fifteen years since the official declaration of Peace, it is recommended that a time limit for applications for disability pensions be set; such time limit, for those who did not serve in a theatre of actual war, to be the 1st July, 1936, and for those who did so serve, the 1st January, 1940, provided that with regard to the latter, the Commission be empowered, in its discretion, to grant leave to have an application entertained after that date.

9. By the amending Act of 1932-33, it was provided that no additional pension should be awarded or payable in respect of a child born on or after the 1st May, 1933, or a daughter or other person employed as a housekeeper, if the duties were assumed on or after that date, or a wife, when marriage took place on or after that date. Amendments are now introduced slightly modifying these prohibitions, whereby additional pension can be paid in respect of a daughter or other person employed as a housekeeper who assumes the care of the minor children either of a disability pensioner or of a widow, so long as additional pension is payable in respect of such children, and whereby in the event of a pensioner marrying his housekeeper or other person who assumes the care of the children, or changes his housekeeper after the date mentioned, the additional pension may be continued.

10. Under the amendments of 1930, a pension could no longer be commuted and provision was made for restoration of those already commuted. Nearly all of those restorations having taken place, the sections which were rendered inoperative by the Act of 1930 are now repealed and one section is substituted therefor. Under it, retroactivation is limited to six months.

11. The limitation of the time during which a retroactive pension should be payable was a matter on which various opinions were expressed. It was, however, felt that there should be a reasonable limit and, therefore, discretionary powers are granted to the Commission, under which pension may be payable for a period prior to its award not exceeding twelve to eighteen months, except in certain cases in which a slightly longer period may be covered.

12. The suggestion that, when a blind pensioner in receipt of attendance allowance enters hospital, such allowance should not be discontinued, was approved, and provision for its continuation is made.

13. The section of the Act under which a widow's pension can be awarded should her husband, who was a pensioner, in receipt of eighty per cent to one hundred per cent for a period not exceeding ten years, die from a non-pensionable disability, has been amended by removing the time limit of ten years. This is now similar to the provision respecting a pensioner's children, which was amended in 1928, by removing the time limit.

14. The procedure respecting application for pension has been rewritten. Under it, the applicant will be able to present his claim twice only to the Commission. Before the second submission, he will be furnished with a summary of all available evidence by the Veterans' Bureau. All disabilities in respect of which he desires to claim pension must be before the Commission at the second hearing. This will ensure full consideration by the Commission before the case goes to a quorum. Time limits have been imposed, during which notice must be given or action taken by the applicant, but discretionary powers have been vested in the Commission to extend these time limits where proper cause for the non-completion of the case is shown.

*Bill No. 27—Amendments to the War Veterans' Allowance Act*

The draft Bill submitted to your Committee has been revised in several respects to conform with the recommendations which your Committee has deemed it advisable to make. The following are the principal features of the amended Bill as recommended by your Committee:—