

APPENDIX No. 4

(c) Another large class were those returned men and widows who desire loans for the purpose of either repaying mortgages or other indebtedness on their houses, or of buying or erecting homes in which to reside. The marked increase of rentals throughout Canada, and the high rate of interest on mortgages, particularly in western cities, have intensified the desire for this form of assistance.

(d) In addition to these larger and more well-defined classes, there exists a multitude of cases in which financial assistance would be of value under an almost infinite variety of conditions.

The difficulty which faced your Committee was the conviction that a grant to any particular class or classes, no matter how worthy or pressing their needs might be, must inevitably result in the widest extension of a system of loans for all and every purpose of re-establishment.

(e) No concrete, workable plan whereby such a general system of advances could be safely adopted has been suggested, and your Committee feels unable to recommend any scheme which could equitably supply the demands of the many whose suggestions have been brought to its attention.

(f) It however recommends the continuation of the provisions made last year whereby the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment is authorized to advance a sum not exceeding \$500 to disabled men for the purchase of tools and equipment, or to enable them to pursue any course of training or education interrupted by war service.

VII.—TUBERCULOUS CASES.

The question of tuberculosis is one of grave importance in its relation to both pensions and re-establishment. Over 7,000 returned soldiers suffering from some form of this malady have undergone treatment. At the close of last year 2,798 were on the books of the Pension Board and of these 1,067 were classed as 100 per cent disabled. The claims of these men were very strongly pressed upon the Committee. Much evidence was given and many suggestions were made both by patients in sanatoria and by medical practitioners who are specialists in this disease.

It was pointed out that under the present system, while a man whose disability was 100 per cent due to service would, on discharge from sanatorium, be granted, for a limited period, a total disability pension (in order to permit a continuation of the necessary rest and the avoidance of over exposure and undue exertion), a man in the same condition clinically, the origin of whose disability antedated enlistment, might receive a pension of a lesser amount, resulting in some cases in hardship, with a consequent early return to sanatorium.

The attitude of your Committee throughout the hearings on this subject has been that of the greatest sympathy with men who unfortunately have become stricken with tuberculosis. Various conferences have been held with the Board of Pension Commissioners and the officials of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, with a view to discovering a means whereby the unfortunate situation of the man whose disability is only partially due to service may be remedied. As a result of these conferences it has been decided to make a more generous assessment of the percentage of disability of the tuberculous ex-soldier, whose disability was partially due to service and aggravated thereby.

Your Committee felt that the main problem in connection with the treatment of the tuberculous is not so much sanatorium treatment as what is known as after-care. Sanatoria in Canada under the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, or utilized by that Department, would appear to be managed and operated along the most modern and effective lines known to medical science, but after a man has undergone a period of treatment and is sent to his home the conditions often are far from