

# BOARD OF PENSION COMMISSIONERS FOR CANADA

## PENSIONS

The question of pensions for our wounded and injured who have come back from the front and for the widows, children and widowed mothers of those who have fallen in France, is one which means a great deal to Canada. It means much at the present time, but it will mean more in the future.

The payment of these pensions will involve many millions of dollars every year. It is necessary, therefore, that every Canadian should know as much as possible about soldiers' and sailors' pensions.

### PAID BY THE COMMISSION

Soon after our wounded began to come home the Government made new and generous Regulations regarding pensions. It appointed two returned Military Officers and one Naval Officer as a Board of Pension Commissioners to administer and pay the pensions under the new regulations. All three Commissioners were appointed on account of the fact that they were not only experienced business men, but were also familiar with the life of soldiers overseas and with social conditions in Canada. The head-office of the Board of Pension Commissioners is at Ottawa. When it took over its duties, the staff employed consisted of only 23 persons. It now consists of over 300, and every day new employees are being added as the pensions payable increase in number.

### PROMPT CONSIDERATION OF COMPLAINTS AND REQUESTS

Besides its Head Office in Ottawa, the Board has opened District Offices in the larger cities of Canada. Through these District Offices it is able to keep in touch with all returned soldiers, with all pensioners, and with all those who have husbands or sons at the Front. At the end of these remarks will be found a complete list of the District Offices opened to date.

Returned soldiers, and relatives of soldiers who are still at the Front, will be found on the staffs of both the Head Office and the District Offices. The result is that every request for information, every application for pension, and every complaint, receives and will continue to receive prompt, courteous and sympathetic consideration. If information is desired with regard to

pensions, it is best to write to the Board at Ottawa direct, or to see the Head of one of the District Offices.

### CANADIAN PENSIONS IN ENGLAND

Applications for Canadian Pensions in England are made through the Pay Office and the Pensions & Claims Board. When pensions have been granted, the Canadian High Commissioner's Office in London makes the payments to such pensioners as reside Overseas.

### WHAT IS A PENSION?

A pension is a grant made by the Government of a certain monthly or yearly sum of money. It is paid to those soldiers and sailors who have been disabled during their service, and to the widows, children and parents of those soldiers and sailors who have died during their service.

It is not possible always to grant a pension to a man who has been disabled, or to his dependents if he dies. The Regulations

which have been made by the Canadian Parliament make it quite clear that soldiers and sailors who have been disabled or have died as the result of their own negligence cannot have pensions granted to them or to those dependent on them.

It would not be fair to the people of Canada to pay a soldier a pension for a disability which he has drawn upon himself by his own wrongdoing or carelessness. No one would expect the Country to give a pension to a man who deliberately shot off one of his fingers. It is equally clear that the Government should not be expected to give a man a pension when his disability is the result of his own intemperance, vicious conduct, or deliberate disobedience of orders. In such cases it is only right that the man should, himself, bear the consequence of his own act.

### DISABLED SOLDIERS AND SAILORS

When a soldier or sailor has been wounded, or injured, or is suffering from a disease contracted on active service, and when it is considered that his wound, injury, or disease is serious enough to make him unfit for military service, he is returned to Canada. If he needs treatment