

REQUEST NO. 1

The Association requests that section 25 sub-section 1-2 of the Pension Act be amended, and that the following rates be embodied in a schedule of the Pension Act.

(a) Pensionable tuberculous ex-service men who have had tubercle bacillus in their sputum or, if this cannot be demonstrated, in cases proved by X-Ray examination, if moderately advanced and clinically active during the period of observation, pension shall be awarded at 100% for a period of at least 2 years. (Royal Commission Recommendation).

Our principal reasons for this request are as follows:-

1. The Board of Pension Commissioners claim that this is in accordance with their present practice. The Minister's letter of February 1st, 1925, addressed to this association, informed us that the average pension at present paid for two years was at the rate of 90%. This, of course, includes cases where attributability is admitted and where pension is paid for two years at 100%, and also cases of "aggravation" where the pension rate is 90%.

It will thus be seen that the granting of our request would not involve any additional expenditure or, at least, the possible additional expenditure would be negligible.

2. The Ralston Royal Commission, after careful investigation and hearing evidence including that of Tuberculous Experts also having the figures of the Chairman of the Board of Pension Commissioners at their disposal, were of the opinion that this amended legislation was advisable and necessary, and so recommended.

The increase cost would be negligible to the country since the Board in its statement, previously quoted, infer that under existing practice the average pension paid after two years is 90%.

3. In view of the change of policy by the B.P.C. in the past or a possible change being made in the Board, and further whereas changes will no doubt be made in the future from time to time, it is felt that we, the Tuberculous pensioners, would feel more secure in having the present policy, which the B.P.C. states now exists, be made permanent by passing the necessary legislation.

REQUEST NO. 2.

That pensionable Tuberculous ex-service men shall not have their pension decreased by more than 20% on semi-annual examination which may be made subsequent to the two year period specified in Request 1. of this schedule. (Royal Commission Recommendation).

The same reasons apply as are applicable to Request No. 1. It is the present practice of the Board, and no additional expenditure would be involved. This request is in accordance with the recommendation of the Ralston Commission and the three Parliamentary Committees. This request also is made for the purpose of legalizing the present practice of the Board of Pension Commissioners. (See page 68 final Report Royal Commission on Pensions and Re-Establishment, Publication No. 205a 1924).