

In 1918, legislation was adopted calling for the establishment of the joint dominion-provincial employment agencies, and these began to function in 1919.

The Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment also organized a so-called "Special Services Branch" which conducted an intensive campaign among employers both generally and on behalf of individuals with respect to finding employment. This branch carried on for approximately three years after the end of the war and there can be no doubt that its efforts in cooperation with the newly established labour exchanges was of great assistance to thousands of ex-servicemen in finding employment opportunities suited to their abilities.

In so far as I have been able to ascertain these are the principal measures adopted in the immediate post-war period for the civil re-establishment of the physically fit veterans.

A further measure to ease the path of the physically handicapped in obtaining employment was the assumption by the dominion government of the cost of workmen's compensation with respect to pensioners in receipt of pension of 20 per cent or more. This measure was adopted in 1921 upon recommendation of the parliamentary committee of that year. The Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment was authorized to reimburse workmen's compensation boards, (or employers where they were individually liable), for the cost of medical treatment or compensation in respect of industrial accidents suffered by pensioners of the group indicated.

In March, 1927, the group of pensioners to which the policy applied was changed to be those with pensions of 25 per cent or more. The purpose and, I believe, the result of this legislation was to encourage employers to take into their establishments disabled men, who at that time were somewhat erroneously regarded as an added accident hazard.

#### WAR VETERANS' ALLOWANCE ACT

As the years passed, new problems arose due to the advancing age of the veteran group. By 1930, it was felt that some provision would have to be made for the aging group of veterans who seemed not to have been successful in providing for themselves and their dependents.

It will be remembered that the Old Age Pension Act had been adopted in 1928, providing pensions at the age of 70, for civilians who had no other means of subsistence. The view was widely held that men who had undergone the harrowing experience of battle might have been prematurely aged thereby. In recognition of this widely held opinion, parliament in 1930 enacted the War Veterans' Allowance Act which, in effect, granted benefits almost identical to those of the Old Age Pension Act to veterans at the age of 60, provided they had seen service in a theatre of actual war, or had been pensioned for disability. The allowance could be paid to a veteran under the age of 60 if he were found to be permanently unemployable.

One important difference between the War Veterans' Allowance Act and the Old Age Pension Act was that old age pension was and is payable individually to men and women as they reach the age of 70. The War Veterans' Allowance Act adopted the same scale of pension, namely, \$20 a month in the case of a single man, but, regardless of the age of the wife, authorized the payment of \$40 to a married man, providing they were living together.

In 1936 the 60-year age limit was reduced to 55 where the veteran was adjudged incapable of maintenance although not necessarily permanently unemployable. In 1938 the requirement that the veteran should have reached the age of 55 was removed. I should also mention that in 1936 Canadian veterans of the South African War were admitted to the benefits of the War Veterans' Allowance Act.