

It has come to the knowledge of the Chapters of the Remembrance Association (Silver Cross Women of Canada) that there are many cases of parents of deceased servicemen who have no adequate means of support.

The present Canadian Pension Act does not grant pensions as of right to such parents. The dependency of such parents must be established. Any pensions granted them are dealt with as special cases under Section 33 of the Act.

Take an extreme example. A soldier killed in the line of duty left both a wife and a widowed mother. The widow is automatically provided for under the terms of the Act and thus receives a pension. The mother may be or become without means of support. Had her son survived, it is reasonable to suppose that he would have provided for his indigent mother. That is the Canadian tradition. It is really disturbing to realize that whereas Section 33 (2) contemplates such mothers, there is no adequate provision in the Canadian Pension Act for them.

A high percentage of the fatal casualties in the two wars comprised young men who had just left school or were attending universities when they enlisted. Their parents had borne the cost of rearing and educating them right up to the date of enlistment. These parents who made considerable sacrifices to so bring up and educate their boys were entitled to believe, and did believe, that in the event that they—the parents—were ever in want, their boys would look after them, married as they might be or otherwise.

Many of these boys married while in the service and in some instances left widows and children. These dependents have been provided for in reasonable measure in the Pension Act and rightly so.

The Act, however, as already stated, has no adequate provisions regarding indigent parents of deceased soldiers.

In the presence of a widow, with or without children, it is difficult to obtain a pension for the parents, although an award may be made.

If there is no widow, after investigation of the circumstances of the parents, a very modest and inadequate award may be made, under Section 33 of the Act.

The Remembrance Association Chapters and membership pray that the Act be amended to provide for all needy parents of such deceased soldiers whether they left widows and children or otherwise.

Parents requiring financial assistance to maintain a respectable standard of living should, in our opinion, be granted a pension of \$75.00 per month in the case of a single parent and \$125.00 if both are alive and in needy circumstances, and it is felt that there should be no change in Subsection 7, Section 33, of the Pension Act, which says: "The pension to a widowed mother shall not be reduced on account of her earnings from personal employment or on account of her having free lodgings or so long as she resides in Canada, on account of her having an income from other sources which does not exceed two hundred and forty dollars per annum; such income being considered to include the contributions from children residing with or away from her, whether such contributions have actually been made or deemed by the Commissioners to have been made."

It is understood, of course, that many parents of deceased soldiers will neither need nor ask for such a pension.

It is our opinion, also that in awarding pensions to such parents and in continuing the awards when granted the present means test should be abolished and a system substituted therefor, whereby the parent or parents would file