

Beginning in 1920 and extending to 1942, it was found necessary to make progressive reductions in the payments due by settlers. The aggregate of those reductions up to March 31, 1945, was no less than \$44,509,000.

Of 25,000 veterans who took up land under the Soldier Settlement Act 8,118 remained on their holdings in 1942 and 2,750 had paid off their loans.

It will be observed, therefore, that the Act did not result in the measure of success that the government of the day (1919) and the public anticipated.

It is a matter of record that the advisory committees who assisted in granting loans included men of high distinction in agriculture and loan experience.

The decline in farm prices immediately following settlement of the great majority of veterans (in the years 1919-21) and the disastrous crop failure conditions and low prices of the thirties are well known. But, apart from these factors, experience—the great teacher—showed there were certain inherent weaknesses in the act itself.

When the subject of land settlement was considered during the present war, the experience of the Soldier Settlement Act constituted a guide, as well as a pointed warning, to the dangers involved in legislation of this character.

Other Measures

Up to the end of hostilities in 1918, legislation and administration for veterans had largely to do with pension, medical care and vocational training since only those were discharged who were physically unable to carry on in the military service.

When armistice came, the government was confronted with the problem of re-establishment in civil life of the hundreds of thousands of physically fit veterans who required no medical care or pension. It was decided that for these there should be a war service gratuity based on the length and character of service.

If a member of the naval service had at least six months at sea or if a member of the expeditionary force had overseas service at all he was entitled to a war service gratuity in monthly payments at the rate of their service pay and allowances plus separation allowance, if any, but with a minimum of \$70 if unmarried or \$100 if married, on the following basis—

For 3 years' service or more	6 monthly payments
For less than 3 but more than 2 years ..	5 monthly payments
For less than 2 but more than 1 year ...	4 monthly payments
For less than 1 year	3 monthly payments

If the veteran had no overseas service he received—

For 3 years or more	3 monthly payments
For more than 2 years	2 monthly payments
For one year's service	1 monthly payment.

Two further measures of assistance to veterans were an amendment to the Civil Service Act entitling veterans to preference in examinations held by the Civil Service Commission. This was first enacted by order in council on February 13th, 1918, and was embodied in the Civil Service Act by parliament in the same year. In 1919 the preference was extended to widows of those who died as a result of service. The provision was strengthened administratively by amendments adopted in 1921 upon recommendation of a parliamentary committee, when an added preference for disability pensioners was approved.

Two measures designed to assist ex-service men in finding employment were adopted at the end of the last war.