

SECTION I.

Under the powers conferred upon it by various Acts of Parliament up to May 31st, 1919, the Canadian Patriotic Fund has been able to assist the families and dependents of soldiers and sailors **only** while the latter were "upon active service," either combatant or otherwise. It has not been in a position to assist, legally, the families of men who have served with the Allied Forces but who have received their discharge therefrom, yet among the latter are many families that for one reason or another are suffering hardship from the withdrawal of the Fund's assistance, or may be faced with conditions that will mean privation and suffering unless relief can be given by the Fund or some other organization.

Whether the Canadian Patriotic Fund should seek the powers to assume post-discharge responsibility was for some time a much debated question. There were good reasons why it should not do so but the problem became so pressing and the need so immediate that at a meeting of the national Executive Committee, held on May 30th, it was decided to petition Parliament to enact such amending legislation as would permit the Fund "to receive, collect, administer and distribute the Fund hereinbefore mentioned, for the assistance, in case of need, of the wives, children and dependents, resident in Canada, of officers and men who during the war that began in August 1914, may be or **may have been engaged** on active service with the Naval, Military or Air forces of His Majesty or of His Majesty's Allies." An act to this effect was passed on July 1st, 1919.

In considering applications for post-discharge relief or assistance it must always be borne in mind that there is no claim on the basis of any pledge or promise. When Canadians enlisted they were assured that during their absence their bona fide dependents would be maintained in comfort, and in the event of their own disability or death on active service, or due to active service, they or their dependents would become wards of the state. This assurance has been made good during the soldiers' absence, by way of separation allowance and the Patriotic Fund; and subsequent to his disability or death by generous pension and other adequate provision. For post-discharge disabilities, whether physical or otherwise, not directly due to the war the state can hardly be expected to assume responsibility, nor can the sufferers reasonably claim relief as a right. The Canadian public, however, feels that no deserving and self-respecting family of a man who fought for his country should be entirely cut adrift in times of distress and it is in deference to this opinion that relief in such cases is to be given.

Before categorizing the classes of family that may be assisted subsequent to the soldier's discharge, certain principles must be enunciated:

- (1) Self-help is to be encouraged to the fullest extent possible, otherwise there is grave danger of creating a class that will always tend to relax personal effort and lean on public benevolence.
- (2) The regular Canadian death or total disability pension must be deemed sufficient to meet all ordinary expenses of daily life.
- (3) Grants from the Canadian Patriotic Fund may not exceed the pension scale from time to time in force, nor may any family receive more than \$100 per month.
- (4) Unemployment of the ex-soldier does not of itself constitute a claim for assistance to his family provided he is in a fit condition to work.
- (5) Voluntary idleness, or lack of employment due to intemperance or improper conduct, either of the ex-soldier or other adult member of