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required to enable a man (unable to earn anything towards his own support) to live decently and in fair comfort without appealing to charity, which he would certainly have to do if he attempted to exist on the pension offered him by the present scale.

If \$12.50 a week (\$54 a month) was definitely settled as the standard of the earning power of the private soldier, the amount to be given to the higher ranks, and for injuries less than total disablement would be a simple matter of adjustment. As the rank rose the pension would increase, the upward curve of the increase from private soldier to Colonel rising steeply or kept flat as the Government might decide it was able to pay. For all injuries less than total disablement the amount of the pension would decrease in proportion.

If on a man's discharge from the army it was found that his earning power was unimpaired he would receive no pension at all; if on the contrary it was entirely destroyed he would get the whole amount. Between these two conditions the amount of pension to be paid would be based upon how much a man's earning power was reduced owing to his injuries. If, for instance, it had decreased 50 per cent he would get 50 per cent of the standard, if 75 per cent he would get 75 per cent of the standard, and so on in any ratio, each case being taken by itself and on its own merits. Such a system would tend to simplify the matter of review which is extremely important and must not be lost sight of under any circumstances.

In many cases, more especially those arising from operations after physical injuries, a man's earning power probably would at first seriously decrease, but if as time went on it showed a marked improvement his pension allowance might be proportionately decreased; the standard of his earning power being entirely restored his pension could cease altogether. In other cases it would be the reverse, more particularly in medical cases where invalidism is apt to ensue. At first the man's earning power would probably not be seriously interfered with, but as time went on would lessen more and more, and his pension consequently increase from year to year until he reached the totally incapacitated stage and be entitled to the full amount.

It is, however, a moot point whether it is wise to discontinue a pension once it is granted, for when a man discovers that the more efficient workman he becomes, the greater becomes the danger of having his pension reduced or of losing it altogether, he is very apt to slacken his efforts towards self-support.

The question, however, of increasing the amount of pensions to men whose health degenerates steadily from year to year will always demand careful consideration.

It cannot be insisted upon too strongly that putting returned wounded men into such condition that they can earn a satisfactory living for themselves is of far greater importance than paying them money. Nothing is worse for a man than giving him a pension. He tries in time to live upon it, looking upon it as an income rather than merely as an assistance to make up for the inefficiency in his earning power, caused by his injuries. The less a man depends upon monetary assistance from any source and the more he is forced to rely upon his own efforts, the better man and better citizen he becomes. There are institutions and appliances in many of the larger cities of Canada by which men, debarred from pursuing their original occupations, can be taught an entirely new trade by which, when they become proficient, they can earn as much as they formerly did by their old ones. Every possible advantage should be taken of these institutions. The man, however, must be taught a real trade and taught it thoroughly, not merely a smattering of one. While he is being so taught he should be in uniform, kept upon the strength, and subject to military discipline, his wife and family meanwhile being supported by the Government in the same way as they were while he was on active service. If while being taught he is lazy, shiftless, of bad habits, making no real effort to benefit by the opportunities placed at his disposal, he could be reported to the military authorities to be dealt with by them as they thought fit.

[Mr. Darling.]