

An interesting new provision in this connection, which will commend itself to everybody who has the interests of these old veterans at heart, is with respect to the value of the premises in which the allowance recipient resides.

It was formerly considered that, if the home exceeded \$2,000 in value, the interest on the excess value should be deducted from the allowance. It is now proposed that the value of the home may be \$4,000 without any such deduction.

The original Act was intended for veterans of the Great War. Canadian veterans of the South African War were added at a later date. About a year ago, the government authorized the payment of these allowances to veterans of the Northwest Rebellion and to veterans of the Second World War. These provisions are now being incorporated in their appropriate place in the Act by amendments to the definition of "theatre of actual war".

I have already mentioned the extension of allowances equivalent to War Veterans' Allowance to widows of veterans who would themselves have been eligible. It is now proposed that this measure, originally introduced by an appropriation in the Supply Act, shall be incorporated in a special part of the War Veterans' Allowance Act.

Arising out of the consideration of the very special rehabilitation problem presented by members of the Veterans' Guard and other older men who have been serving in the present war, the government, on October 4th, 1944, adopted what is known as the Veterans' Dual Service Pension Order. In dealing with these men of fairly advanced years who have served in the two wars, there was found to be a small number who had given extended years of service in the two wars without ever having seen overseas service in either war.

The man who has served in a theatre of war in either war is covered by the ordinary provisions of the Act, and it was thought advisable that men who had had extended service in both wars, even though they had not been at the front, should be given reasonable protection in their old age.

The Veterans' Dual Service Pension Order, of October 1944, is, therefore, now being incorporated as a special part of the War Veterans' Allowance Act. Their widows and orphans are also being given the same protection as the widows and orphans of the other classes of veterans covered by the Act.

Another slight amendment necessitated by the inclusion in the forces during the present war of large numbers of women is the clarification of the definition of "veteran", so that it shall not be restricted to male members of the forces.

Among the new clauses are some which, like that to which I have just referred, are merely for the purpose of clarification and improvement of terminology.

One or two of the new amendments, however, merit special mention. It has been decided to ask for power to make additional temporary appointments to the board for periods of one year at a time. It is anticipated that there may occasionally be heavy volumes of new applications and, in order that these may receive proper consideration without delay, it is thought that the board would be assisted by being able to augment its membership.

A clause has been inserted giving the power of regulation under the customary limitations regarding approval of the Governor General in Council.

There has always been a provision that recipients must have been domiciled in Canada for at least six months. It has been decided to recommend that this be reduced to three months.

The bill as drafted is now in four parts: Part I deals with veterans; Part II with widows and orphans; Part III with dual service pensions and Part IV with general provisions which are applicable to all classes of beneficiaries, or are of an administrative character.