

CHANGES IN PENSIONS ACT ARE IMPORTANT

Modifications in Existing Legislation Will Have Much Effect on Future Decisions as to Pensions

SEVERAL AMENDMENTS

The following statement on the subject of the new Pensions Act, which becomes effective September 1, 1919, has been issued by the Board of Pensions Commissioners for Canada:—

The Pension Act, which passed through both Houses during the last parliamentary session, provides for the pensioning of Canada's disabled ex-soldiers, their dependents and the dependents of those who were killed, and is one of the most important enactments the Dominion Government has ever passed.

The Act consolidates various Orders in Council relating to pensions passed in Canada during the war, and in addition gives effect to recommendations made by the special committee which was appointed early in the last session of Parliament to consider the question of pensions and pension regulations.

A number of modifications to the existing "Pension Regulations," which comprise the present law on pensions, are to be found in the new Act, and the changes created will have an important effect on future decisions with regard to pensions.

The most important change which has been made is that authorizing the payment of a bonus, for one year, to disabled company sergeant-majors and lower ranks and to widows and other dependents of members of the forces holding such ranks who have died or been killed.

There are, however, other important amendments, such as the clause which states that the earnings from personal employment of a widowed mother shall not be taken into consideration when an award of pension to such a person is made. Formerly the Pension Commissioners were compelled, under the Pension Regulations, to take earnings or income from any source whatever into consideration when awarding pension in cases of this nature.

This clause also affects beneficiaries of municipal insurance which was given in some Canadian cities to citizens who enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. The dependents of a soldier so insured became, in the event of his death through military service, entitled to municipal insurance in addition to pension, but under the Pension Regulations income from municipal insurance had to be considered as income, and the award of pension, if made, varied accordingly. This will no longer be the case under the Pension Act, which states that municipal insurance shall not be taken into consideration when pension is being awarded.

Another amendment states that voluntary reversion from a rank held in the C.E.F. to a lower rank for the purpose of proceeding to a scene of hostilities will entitle the particular member of the forces if disabled, or his dependents, if he is killed, to the pension prescribed for the rank from which he reverted. Under the present regulations provision is made for reversion in England only and payment of pension at the higher rate is restricted to the dependents of a deceased soldier. The principle is now extended to include disability cases and also cases of reversion in Canada. Disability pensioners who are affected by this clause should communicate with the Board of Pension Commissioners as, although all cases will be reviewed as quickly as possible, the Board states, the filing of a claim by the pensioner

PULPWOOD PRODUCTION BY PROVINCES, 1916-17

The following table, from the 1917 report on Pulp and Paper, in the Census of Industry Series, published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, shows the production of pulpwood by provinces, 1916 and 1917:—

Provinces.	No. of firms reporting.	Quantity.		Per cent distribution.	Total value.	Average value per cord.	
		1916	1917			1916	1917
		No.	Cords	p.c.	\$	\$ cts.	\$ cts.
Total	56	1,764,912	2,104,334	100.0	18,817,483	7.42	8.94
Quebec.....	25	924,272	1,109,869	52.7	9,551,432	7.40	8.60
Ontario.....	16	637,612	735,691	35.0	7,430,355	7.57	8.10
British Columbia.....	5	108,997	134,814	6.4	968,763	5.32	7.19
New Brunswick.....	5	79,594	105,586	5.6	733,482	7.43	6.95
Nova Scotia.....	5	14,437	18,374	0.9	133,451	5.27	7.26

will facilitate the rapid completion of the work.

When it is considered that Canada with her comparatively small population is already paying well over 80,000 pensions on account of the great war, and is still awarding pensions at the rate of over 130 per day, the necessity for sane and equitable legislation, such as the Pension Act appears to provide, is manifest.

TRADING WITH ENEMY REGULATION IS AMENDED

The Order in Council passed on June 23, 1919, permitting trading and commercial and financial transactions with enemy concerns has been amended by an Order in Council passed on August 18, as follows:—

The Deputy Governor General in Council, on the recommendation of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, is pleased to order that the Order in Council of 23rd June, 1919, permitting trading and commercial and financial transactions with persons resident or carrying on business in an enemy country or occupied territory with whom residents of the United Kingdom have been or may hereafter be permitted by His Majesty's license to trade and have commercial and financial transactions, shall be and the same is hereby amended by adding thereto the following:—

"Provided further that this license shall not permit any person to pay or deliver any sums of money or property which is or but for the war would have been due or deliverable to any person or bodies of persons resident or carrying on business in Germany in respect of transactions entered into before the outbreak of the war."

RODOLPHE BOUDREAU,
Clerk of the Privy Council.

LOANS TO SOLDIERS REACH LARGE SUM

Over \$23,000,000 have been loaned by the Soldier Settlement Board to returned soldiers up to July 30. There were 7,939 individual loans approved by the Board and 1,632 were refused. More than 1,000 loans are pending. The Agricultural Qualification Committee reports that 21,400 applications for the benefits of the Soldier Settlement Act had been approved by the Board up to August 9. The total applications received on that date was 28,290, as stated by the Soldier Settlement Board.

War Savings Stamps not only save money but earn it.

Work of C.A.D.C. Overseas.

In 1917 and 1918 the total number of dental operations performed in England and France by the Canadian Army Dental Corps was 2,255,442. As a result of this work a great many men were saved from being placed in lower categories and made fit for A1 service, according to the report of the Overseas Minister of Militia for 1918.

ACCEPT \$35,000,000 PENDING LOAN ISSUE

The amount of temporary investments which the Finance Minister is authorized to accept pending the issue of the coming loan to be issued by the Government has been increased from \$15,000,000 to \$35,000,000 by an Order in Council passed August 18, 1919, as follows:—

The Committee of the Privy Council have had before them a report, dated 14th August, 1919, from the Minister of Finance, submitting that by Order in Council of 17th July, 1919, P.C. 1501, the Minister of Finance is authorized to accept moneys for investment in the coming loan to an amount not exceeding \$15,000,000 on the security of treasury bills bearing interest at the rate of 5½ per cent.

The amount received on this account to date totals over \$11,000,000, and, as many large offers are being made to the Department of Finance, the Minister recommends that he be authorized to accept sums of this character to an amount not exceeding in all \$35,000,000 on the said security.

The Committee concur in the foregoing recommendation, and submit the same for approval.

RODOLPHE BOUDREAU,
Clerk of the Privy Council.

SOLDIER SETTLERS SUCCESSFUL IN B.C.

Reports from British Columbia continue to speak of the success of the settlers going on the land under the auspices of the Soldier Settlement Board. In the month of July these men had paid back to the Board sums totaling \$37,000 for the wiping out of loans. A great deal of this money was not due until October, but the settlers were anxious to discharge or to lessen their obligations at the earliest possible moment. A portion of the money was from proceeds of sales from fruit farms and some of it was from live stock, as stated by the Soldier Settlement Board.

REGULATIONS MADE MORE FAVOURABLE TO SOLDIER SETTLER

Amendment to Dominion Lands Act Benefits Soldier Who Has Taken Up Land

FURTHER CONCESSION

An amendment to the Dominion Lands Act, in the interest of returned soldier entrants, has been made by an Order in Council passed August 14, as follows:—

Whereas the Minister of the Interior reports as follows:—

By Section 14 of the Dominion Lands Act, Chapter 20 of the Statutes of 1908 (amended by Section 26 of the Dominion Lands Act, Chapter 19 of the Statutes of 1918), provision was made for the ownership and maintenance by the holder of a homestead, pre-emption or purchased homestead, as the case may be, of a specified number of stock in each year in lieu of cultivation in order to qualify for letters patent;

By Section 22 of the Dominion Lands Act, Chapter 20 of the Statutes of 1908 (amended by Section 6 of the Dominion Lands Act, Chapter 19 of the Statutes of 1918), provision was made whereby an entrant absent from his homestead, pre-emption or purchased homestead, as the case may be, while a member of a military force as provided therein, might count his period of military service as residence;

Provision has been made in the case of such an entrant for earning patent by doing cultivation in one or two seasons, as the case may be, but no provision has been made for a similar concession where the entrant cannot cultivate the required area, and desires to substitute the ownership of live stock as above set forth.

Therefore the Deputy Governor General in Council, under the authority of Subsection (k) of Section 76 of the said Act, is pleased to make the following regulation, and the same is hereby made and adopted accordingly:—

1. If a returned soldier entrant has one full period of six months' military service to his credit, he will require to show ownership of stock during two years only, provided that he shall be the owner of at least sixteen head of live stock when he makes application for patent and complies with the other conditions, as to fencing and the erection of buildings.

2. When he has military service sufficient to credit him with the required period of six months' residence in each of two or more homestead terms, he will require to show ownership of live stock numbering not less than sixteen head during one season only, in addition to having the necessary buildings and fencing.

(This would be applicable also in the case of purchased homesteads.)

3. In the case of pre-emptions, a returned soldier entrant may be dealt with on the same basis, except that when making application for patent he will require to furnish proof of the ownership of twenty-four head of live stock, with buildings and fencing as provided by the Dominion Lands Act.

RODOLPHE BOUDREAU,
Clerk of the Privy Council.

Canadian Army Chaplains.

There were with the Overseas Military Forces of Canada during the war 426 chaplains, two of whom were killed in action, one died of wounds, one died while serving on an hospital ship, two died of sickness, and twenty-one were wounded, as stated in the report of the Overseas Minister of Militia for 1918.

War Savings Stamps pay 4½% compounded half-yearly.