given to make compassionate awards of pension in certain types of cases where there are especially meritorious circumstances.

Another amendment stemming from the report of the Ralston Commission was enacted in 1925 providing that disability incurred during service, although not manifest until subsequent thereto should nevertheless be pensionable.

Restrictions on Pension Applications

Prior to 1928 there were time limits within which application for disability pension could legally be made. In 1928 on the recommendation of a parliamentary committee those time limits were abolished and remain so for those with service in a theatre of actual war.

Retroactive Awards

An important amendment of 1936 had to do with retroactive awards. Cases arose of men discharged as fit who subsequently developed disabilities which they considered to be service related. While in some instances this proved to be the case, there were many others where the possibility of receiving large retroactive payments resulted in numerous claims and representations from applicants and their agents. Many of these claims became very contentious and had little merit or basis to justify the application. An opinion prevalent at the time was that the fact of a large adjustment of pension being involved might prejudice the claim and lead to an adverse decision.

In 1936 parliament decided that retroactive awards should not go back more than twelve months from the date which application was made. In exceptional cases, where there was genuine hardship, discretion was given to the commission to award an additional payment not exceeding six months' pension.

In 1938 the commission by regulation, with the approval of the government, adopted the policy of making an upward revision of assessments in severe disability resulting from gunshot wounds on the well-grounded assumption that the disabling effect of such an injury is proportionately greater as the pensioner advances in age.

Dependent Parents

In 1918, on the recommendation of a parliamentary committee, the principle of prospective dependency for parents was introduced into the pension regulations. The previous rule was that only parents who had been wholly or mainly dependent upon a deceased member of the forces should be entitled to pension. The new principle permitted pension to be paid to parents who had not been supported by a deceased son, provided there was evidence to base a presumption that the deceased member of the forces, if he had survived, would have supported his parents.

Until 1920 parents were pensionable only if the member of the forces was unmarried. In cases where there was a pensioned widow the parents were not eligible. In the far-reaching revision of 1920 to which I have already referred the Act was amended to permit the payment of a sum not exceeding $180 a year towards the support of each parent of a disability pensioner, providing the pensioner had previously supported his parents and was continuing to do so. Similarly, in the event of a member of the forces or a pensioner dying from a cause attributable to service, his surviving dependent parents were made eligible for pension up to $180 a year each, notwithstanding the payment of pension to a widow or children.

These rates remained in effect until 1944, when the commission was given the power to award up to $360 per annum to each surviving parent of a deceased member of the forces where the widow or children were also pensionable.