

are awardable to disabled men in direct proportion to the extent of the incapacity caused by their service. The amount of the pension received by a man who is totally disabled must be sufficient to support him and his family in decent comfort. The amount of pension awarded to a partly disabled man depends entirely upon the degree of his incapacity; it is in no way influenced by his social position or earning power. A pension is the inalienable right of the individual to whom it is awarded; it can be diminished for no reason other than a lessening of the incapacity in respect of which it is granted. Since pension is awarded to a man because of an incapacity resulting from military service, it is reasonable that pension be refused to a man who has been incapacitated by his own wilful misconduct or viciousness. For the same reason, pension is denied to a man who unreasonably refuses some simple treatment by which his incapacity might be reduced or removed.

In France, as in Canada, the value of the pensions granted is greater than ever before. One of the reasons which has supported the increase in the amount granted to pensioners is the conviction that it is desirable to avoid the construction of homes for old soldiers. It is, of course, inevitable that there will be a small number of discharged soldiers who, although receiving pensions, will be incapable of looking after themselves entirely and can find no place in existing institutions or with friends. Such persons will be those violently insane and those requiring constant attention for other reasons; for them, it may be necessary to establish special institutions. The vast majority of French pensioners would not consent to become inmates of any institution established for them; the soldiers serving in the armies of France are men accustomed to home life; the soldiers for whom past generations established *Les Invalides* were professional soldiers who had spent most of their lives in barracks, and had never had homes of their own. It is much more in accordance with modern social organization to give disabled soldiers a pension of an amount sufficient to secure them decent comfort in their own homes or as boarders and lodgers in private families.

While it is desirable that private benevolence should have an opportunity of assisting men returned from our armed forces, it is quite certain that the unorganized activity of individuals and of small incoördinated societies inevitably results in unnecessary waste and in useless expenditure of the national resources; consequently, French legislation controls the activities of private societies and individuals. Persons and societies are permitted to accept