

authorized test or training period, or as a result of enemy action or counter-action.

If death as a result of war service injury occurs within seven years, dependents may be pensioned.

But widows who married a deceased A.R.P. worker subsequent to the incurrance of the fatal injury and children born more than nine months after the injury are not eligible for pension.

I am happy to say that, in this vast army of volunteer workers who trained so faithfully for an emergency that never came, we have had very few accidents. It has been found necessary to award only five pensions.

Although, aside from a few minor incidents, the war never reached Canadian territory, its conditions entailed upon many civil servants and government employees the necessity of living in and travelling through or over areas subjected to direct enemy action. Such civil government employees, including some who served without remuneration—when sent from Canada on duty—were made eligible for pension in respect of death or injury consequent upon enemy action or counter-action. Appropriate rates of pension were arrived at by a schedule of salaries, each bracket of which was equated for pension purposes to a military rank. The same pension privileges were made applicable to death or injury sustained in air flights on duties arising from the war, excepting flights on scheduled commercial air lines.

WAR VETERANS' ALLOWANCE ACT

The amendments which are proposed for the War Veterans' Allowance Act are very far-reaching in relation to the Act as it stood at the outbreak of war. They are of two kinds.

By far the more important of the two groups is that designed to give effect to changes which have been effected during the war and which are already in operation.

The second group consists of new proposals for the clarification and improvement of the Act without involving fundamentally new principles.

In 1941, 1943 and 1944, by progressive steps, the rates of war veterans' allowance were increased from the original \$20 a month to \$30.41 a month for a single man and from \$40 to \$60.83 a month in the case of a married man. The orders-in-council dealt with these increases as supplementary grants, but it is proposed now that the supplementary amounts shall be consolidated with the basic rates in a single item.

During the war also, a number of adjustments were made with regard to allowable income. At the outbreak of war, allowance was not payable when it would bring the recipient's income above \$365 a year in the case of a single man, or \$730 in the case of a married man. It is now proposed that the changes effected during the war shall be embodied in the statute. Among the items which have been added during the war to the list of classes of income which shall not be deductible from the allowance are:—

War service gratuities;

Assistance from a province or municipality in the way of relief or mothers' allowance paid on account of dependent children;

Family allowances under the Act of 1944, and Unearned income up to \$25 a year.

This last was introduced in order that allowance recipients who had made small investments in victory loans, or who had received bequests of victory bonds, should not have the small income derived from this source deducted from their allowances.