

## PENSIONS

**T**HE United States call pensions "War Risk Insurance;" theirs is the better name.

An article on "The Problem of the Disabled Soldier" appeared in the April number of *THE UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE*. It discussed the subject in general terms. It reviewed the circumstances under which men engage in war; it discussed the obligations of a state to its returning and disabled men; it mentioned the aims and nature of the means by which the replacement in civilian life of discharged sailors and soldiers may be ensured. In doing so, incidental allusion was made to pension provision. Because pensions occupy an unmeritedly important place in the measures popularly associated with the rehabilitation of disabled soldiers there seems to be room for a discussion, which this article attempts, of the principles upon which pensions legislation should be based and of the provisions which pensions legislation should make.

Before discussion of pensions commences it will be well to review the conclusions established in "The Problem of the Disabled Soldier." It is of national importance that a sound understanding should be general among us of the precise circumstances under which our disabled sailors and soldiers return to their homeland.

Sailors and soldiers, in war, are citizens delegated by their fellows to perform a public service; that service is the destruction of a public enemy. Therefore, sailors and soldiers incurring detriment to their persons through service are rehabilitated so that they may suffer no more severely than any other citizen by reason of the enemy's action, or other risk of war. Above all things, each Canadian will remember that Canada has an obligation to rehabilitate generously and justly those of her citizens who have suffered through their war service. But there is also an obligation upon returning