

and graft. So, there is everywhere a hope that pensions will compensate fairly for death and disablement and that abuses will be avoided by the wise drafting and wise administration of pension legislation.

In English-speaking communities, though laws may be inscribed in Statute Books, not written codes but public opinion decides almost from day to day the nature of the control which law enforces. To secure sound public action on any question by such communities, it is necessary for the public in general to have up-to-date knowledge of the question and an appreciation of its necessities. To secure good pension law and its proper administration we must fortify and guide our desire to deal fairly with fighting men by understanding what should be done for them and the manner and cost of doing it. The bill is a heavy one. Its payment will be a burden. In Canada, war pensions, apart from other benefits of similar intention, already cost each Canadian four dollars a year.

To-day, all democratic peoples hold that war is a social risk. When a social unit, a nation, is at war, each of its citizens is equally affected, equally liable for public service. Those who give public service do so not for themselves alone but for the society of which they are a part. Therefore, each citizen should share equally in the suffering which war brings to his nation. War may make citizens suffer in property or in person. Compensation for property loss lies outside the province of a war pension. A war pension compensates only for personal detriment.

A pension is but part of the compensation which is provided by the State on behalf of those who have suffered in their persons by death or disablement. Additional compensation is given in other ways. War disabilities, whether they appear during service or after discharge, are made as small as may be by medical and surgical treatment and by the use of artificial limbs or other appliances. Men who, by their disabilities, are unable to follow ordinary employment, are taught, in schools, shops and soldiers' settlements, the