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## The Pension List

THE very important and very difficult question of pensions to disabled soldiers and to the widows and dependents of the men who gave their lives in the war was dealt with in Parliament last week by a committee under the able chairmanship of Mr. Hume Cronyn, the member for London, Ont. The committee—substantially the same members as had considered the subject in the previous session—gave long and patient attention to the enquiry into the matter and came to a practically unanimous conclusion. The question of additional gratuities to the returned soldiers generally had been fully considered in the former session, and, though an attempt was made to revive it, the committee considered that there was no reason to depart from the conclusion then reached. There is no doubt that a large number of the returned men have supported very keenly the movement for obtaining these gratuities. Many others, who at the beginning had no part in the movement, were persuaded to join in it, seeing no reason why they should not participate in any distribution of the public moneys that was likely to be made. But there is good ground for believing that a large number of the men fully realize the difficulties that arise in the way of such a proposal and that they are disposed to assent to the Government's view adverse to the indiscriminate granting of the gratuities sought.

While this opinion against the larger project is so widely held, there is a no less emphatic opinion that ample justice and liberality should be extended to the disabled men and to the dependents of the soldiers who died in service. Mr. Cronyn's committee gave full expression to this desire in the report submitted to the House. Although the first scale of pensions was not ungenerous, and it was supplemented by a bonus, the committee found that these allowances were too low to ensure a reasonable standard of comfort in the face of the rising cost of living. They therefore recommended such an increase of bonus as would make the pensions fifty per cent in excess of the basic scale. This increase is recommended for all the men of rank below that of lieutenant,

and it extends to the widows and other dependents of the dead soldiers. Some restrictions, too, which were found to operate unfairly are to be removed, and the way to the pension by those who have bona fide claims will be made easier.

Altogether the new scheme, which adds more than \$8,000,000 to the pension appropriation of the year and raises the total pension allowance for the year to \$33,000,000, certainly makes generous provision for the pension allowance for the year to \$33,000,000, financial stress and increasing taxation, the people of Canada will willingly endorse the recommendations of the committee. While economy is urgently needed, nobody desires it to be applied to the grants of money that are required to make provision both just and generous for the disabled men and for the widows and dependents of the soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice.

## Glimpse of Manitoba

THE nominations for the Provincial elections in Manitoba give a glimpse of the very mixed character of the population of that Province. On the streets of Winnipeg one hears many languages. Where there is such a large foreign population, the field for the soap-box orators and other agitators is a very inviting one. This is a fact to be remembered when we have occasion to recall the disorders in Manitoba's capital a year ago. It is because of this mixed population, no doubt, that there is in Manitoba to a larger extent than elsewhere a development of the group idea that is so noticeable in our politics today. Tickets have been placed in nomination representing parties described as follows: Government (Liberal), Conservative Opposition, Dominion Labor Party, Socialists, Social Democrat, Sailors, and Soldiers, Labor Party, Independent Liberals, Progressive Conservatives, Progressive Independents, Independents, Independent Soldiers. There are several women candidates. If out of all these groups the Manitobans cannot find suitable representatives—especially with the help of the system of proportional representation which is being tried in Winnipeg—they are hard to please.