

have disabilities meriting compensation. Just as bodies compensating for industrial accidents have found it necessary to be responsible for medical attendance under certain circumstances, so the pensioning bodies in Great Britain, largely, and in Canada to a limited extent, are responsible for medical attendance and treatment to pensioners who require it for war disabilities.

A pensioning body acts as a trustee for pensioners; it sees that pensions reach those to whom they are due without effort on their part; it assists those whose claim to pension is difficult to establish, in procuring necessary evidence; it administers the pensions of incompetents and minors; it furnishes the last means by which a government keeps in official contact with its disabled sailors and soldiers.

It is early, yet, to speak of the possible number of pensions. Estimates made in the United States expect that fifty out of each one thousand soldiers engaged will be totally disabled and seventy-five will be partially disabled; the guess is interesting. Already Great Britain counts her pensions by the hundred thousand, Canada hers by the thousand. That the cost of rightful pensions will be great is certain. That the cost will not be unreasonable, that it can be borne by a healthy nation, and that it must be borne in justice to those who are pensioned is also certain; this article endeavours to set out the reasons for that statement.

Though all the warring nations have recognized the principles upon which rehabilitation should logically proceed, prejudice and national precedent have often prevented the realization of ideal legislation. It is regrettable that it is so. The past unfortunate experience of the United States with war pensions arose, more than from any other single cause, from the inadequate and incoherent nature of pensions legislation initiated at the close of the Civil War. In order that there may be no such danger after the European War, the United States have adopted a War-risk Insurance-Pension-Act that is comprehensive in its plan. The ground has been well studied. The United States measure is the most effective