

FRIDAY, June 11, 1954.

The Special Committee on Veterans Affairs begs leave to present the following as a

FIFTH REPORT

Your Committee has already reported, with amendments in each case, the four bills referred to it in the Orders of Reference of February 11, February 25, May 11 and May 19, namely:

- Bill 101—An Act respecting Benefits for Members of the Canadian Forces;
- Bill 82—An Act to amend the War Service Grants Act;
- Bill 339—An Act to amend the Pension Act;
- Bill 459—An Act to amend the Veterans' Land Act.

Officials of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including Mr. E. L. M. Burns, Deputy Minister; Mr. G. L. Lalonde, Assistant Deputy Minister; Mr. G. H. Parliament, Director General of Welfare Services; Mr. W. Gordon Gunn, Q.C., Director of Legal Services; Mr. E. J. Rider, Research Adviser; Mr. C. B. Topp, Chief Pensions Advocate; Mr. T. J. Rutherford, Director, Veterans' Land Act; Mr. A. D. McCracken, Senior Administrative Officer; Mr. H. C. Griffith, Superintendent, Construction Division; Mr. H. R. Holmes, Superintendent, Securities Division; Mr. W. Strojich, Superintendent, Property Division; Mr. W. G. Wurtele, Treasury Officer, with Veterans' Land Act; also, Mr. J. L. Melville, Chairman, and Mr. Leslie A. Mutch, Vice-Chairman, of The Canadian Pension Commission, were in attendance at the eighteen committee sittings which were held between May 14 and June 9; and your Committee desires to express its grateful appreciation to these officials for the valuable assistance given by them to the Committee in its work.

In the course of its deliberations your Committee received submissions in writing and orally in respect of the aforesaid bills from the following national veterans' organizations, viz:

- The Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League;
- The National Council of Veteran Associations in Canada;
- Canadian non-pensioned Veterans' Widows;
- The Canadian Merchant Navy Veterans Association.

In tabling herewith a copy of the evidence adduced, your Committee desires to draw attention to the fact that the submissions by the Canadian Legion, the National Council of Veteran Associations and the Canadian non-pensioned Veterans' Widows, each contained, in addition to representations in respect of the said bills, representations urging changes in the War Veterans Allowance Act to raise the amounts of allowances payable thereunder, and also to raise the level of permissive income

The Canadian Merchant Navy Veterans Association, in their submission, laid most stress on a wish that those who served during World War II in dangerous waters receive the benefits of the Veterans' Land Act.

Your Committee recommends that the Government give sympathetic consideration to the said submissions.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WALTER A. TUCKER,
Chairman.