

TWICE WIDOWED, GETS PENSION SECOND TIME

Precedents Broken in Unique Case of
Mrs. Florence Leach

(Toronto Star.)
To have lost two soldier husbands through death is the strange experience of Mrs. Florence Leach, 801 Shaw street, city, for whom a second widow's pension has just been arranged. Word was received in the city from Ottawa Saturday that, through the efforts of the G. W. V. A., a full widow's pension, with allowance for her one child, had been granted by the Dominion Pension Board. The matter has been under adjustment since October of last year.

Incidentally her case creates a situation with regard to the final granting of the pension, for which there is no precedent in the Dominion. It is the first time that the Canadian government has ever granted a pension to a soldier's widow after she had re-married. It is also the first time a pension has been awarded to the widow of a soldier who married her husband after he had incurred the disabilities for which he himself was entitled to a pension for the term of his life.

First Husband Killed.

In September, 1914, Mrs. Leach then Miss Florence Barnes, was married to Pte. Harold Goodall, of Blinker street, city, who came from Valcartier for the ceremony. Pte. Goodall was a member of the famous 8th Battalion, and left Canada in October, 1914, with that unit, which formed a part of the first contingent. On the 23rd of April, 1915, at the immortal engagement of St. Julien, he was killed in action. In the due course of time his widow and little child were awarded a pension.

Mrs. Leach would probably have remained a widow for the rest of her days had she not met at Muskoka, in 1916, Pte. Alfred E. Leach, formerly of the 2nd Battalion, who had returned from the war, classed in the language of his discharge certificate as a "total disability." He had been wounded in France, having his leg broken by a shell, and had contracted tubercular trouble during his service. Leach was a fine young man and had been one of the brightest of soldiers. A close friendship sprang up between Mrs. Goodall and the disabled soldier, during the former's visit to Muskoka and on the second of October they were married. It was a case of a young and cheerful woman determined to make life happy for one of the boys who had given of his very best in the defence of his country.

Proof of Good Faith.

In October of last year Pte. Leach died. For two reasons Mrs. Leach was left without a pension. The pensions due her owing to the death of her first husband were cancelled immediately upon re-marriage. Under the pension regulations, too, no woman who married a disabled soldier, after he had incurred his disability, is entitled to a pension after his death. But in this instance, after her case had been taken up by the G. W. V. A., the government was disposed to make an exception. The fact that to marry Pte. Leach Mrs. Goodall gave up her pension was sufficient, it was argued in her behalf, to show that she had no intention of annexing the pension of her second husband. For this reason the pension has been granted, and Mrs. Leach will be in receipt of approximately \$600 a year for the support of herself and her two-year old son.

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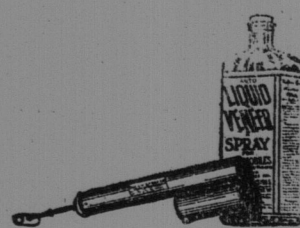
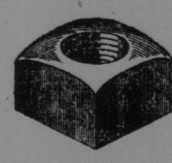
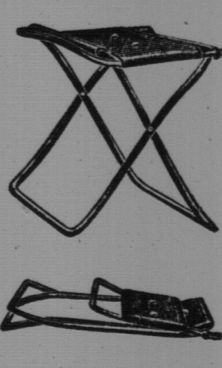
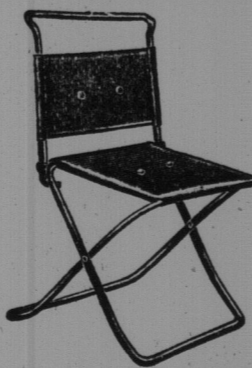
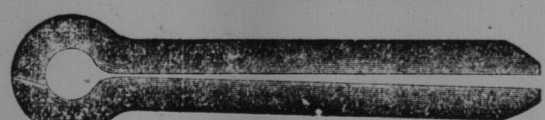
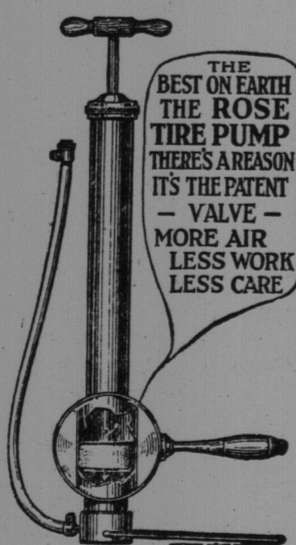
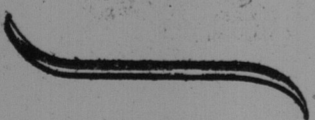
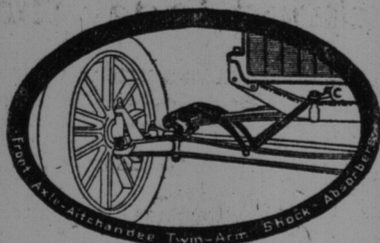
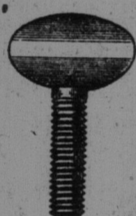
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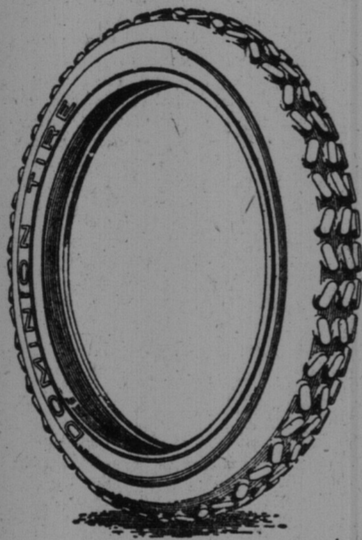


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