

It is, of course, true that a large number of the other disabilities represented the natural wastage of any army, resulting as they did from acute disease or showing up only gradually under military training, but even these disabilities, though developing after enlistment, had in many cases shown up sufficiently in Canada to justify abundantly discharge from the Service there.

UNDUE RETENTION IN SERVICE OF OBVIOUS UNFITS.

The appended cases show how men who have, even at the most casual examination, an absolutely disqualifying disability have been enlisted and retained for months in the Service.

This prolonged retention in the Service of men who were on enlistment obviously unfit for service overseas has many serious objections.

OBJECTIONS TO THEIR USE ON PERMANENT BASE DUTY.

Many of these men, it is true, could be available for Permanent Base Duty, but it must be remembered that the number of Canadians actually required for Base Duty is limited, and that—other things being equal—men from the Front who have been disabled have the prior claim to the soft jobs available.

UNFITS IN HOSPITAL.

Further, such unfits for Overseas Service, by reason of their disabilities from over age, rheumatism, middle ear disease, etc., form an undue proportion of the admissions to Active Treatment and Convalescent Hospitals, and thus increase very greatly, without a corresponding return in Military Service, the strain on the Medical Service and the cost to the country at large.

PENSIONS' ASPECT OF UNFITS.

There is a further reason for the early discharge of unfits—a reason the importance of which will be fully apparent only in after years. The longer they are retained in the Service the more plausible becomes their plea that their disability was contracted in, or at least aggravated by, Active Service.

The question of Pension then arises. Men who are discharged for a disability present on enlistment are not entitled to Pension for that disability, but where a pre-existing disability has been increased at least temporarily by Active Service, corresponding Pension or Gratuity must be allowed.

As all soldiers are examined (or supposed to be) and passed by a Medical Officer on enlistment, only disabilities quite obviously and