

the Fenian raid, the northwest rebellion, and the South African war were all given land grants as a means of helping them to establish themselves in civil life.

The earlier measures are very largely responsible for the settlement of Upper Canada. The later grants were of more dubious value and led to little more than real estate speculation in "scrip".

Land settlement is the only major piece of legislation for veterans during the war of 1914-18 which was initiated on the floor of parliament. The Soldier Settlement Act of 1917 provided for the granting of loans up to \$2,500 to veterans settling on dominion crown lands. This measure proved inadequate and several amendments were enacted by order in council.

### *Parliamentary Sanction*

In 1918 and 1919 the whole field of veterans' legislation was reviewed by parliament. In 1918 the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment Act was passed, giving parliamentary sanction to the order in council passed earlier in the same year. In 1919 the various orders in council setting up the pension board and creating and modifying pension regulations were embodied in the Pension Act. In the same session a new and broader Soldier Settlement Act was adopted.

From that day until the outbreak of the present war, all important measures affecting veterans have been the subject of parliamentary action, and in every case legislation proposed by the government has been reviewed by a committee of the House of Commons.

I should like now to trace briefly the history of each major branch of veterans' administration from its inception to 1939.

### *Organizational Development*

The organization originally set up by the Military Hospitals Commission and the Board of Pension Commissioners, and later combined under the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment, has enjoyed an unbroken history up to the present. In 1928, however, by which time those who had fought in the war had become fully absorbed into the civilian community, the name "Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment" had become an anachronism, and it was decided to create a Department of Pensions and National Health. It would appear that national health was combined with the pensions administration chiefly because these were the two departments of government employing large numbers of medical men.

## THE PENSION ACT

Pension legislation has undergone many changes since the first regulations were promulgated by order in council in 1916 and, in every case, a committee of the House of Commons has played an important part.

Practically from the beginning Canada recognized the claims made upon pensioners by the fact of their having dependents. Pension was placed on a graduated scale in relation to the number of dependents for whose support the pensioner was responsible. Thus, a pensioned widow receives not only the standard rate of \$60.00 a month for all ranks below captain (Army), but additional allowances based on the number of children in the family.

In the case of disability pensioners, there is a schedule in the act fixing twenty rates of pension ranging from 5 per cent to 100 per cent in multiples of five. Disabilities are assessed in percentages, and the rate of pension is based on the percentage of disability.

The basic schedule is for a single man without dependents, with additional provisions giving allowances for dependents. This schedule begins with the allowances applicable to a total disability pensioner. If, however, the disability