Sir Arthur Currie Asks Improvement In Pension System

Almost Impossible to Prove Disability Due to War Service

MANY DISSATISFIED

Ottawa.—With Sir Arthur Currie and a large delegation of the Canadian Legion present at the first business meeting of the Pension Committee last week, an overcrowded attendance necessitated a move to the largest room in the House.

A senatorial committee was present to watch the proceeding and avoid duplicate of effort when the bill goes to the Upper House. Col. Lefleche, head of the Canadian Legion, asked a hearing for Sir Arthur Currie. Chairman Power invited the commander of the Canadian Corps in the war to give his views on the legislation.

Sir Arthur expressed his appreciation of his consideration of the present and past committees on pensions. He regretted that after 11 years there was still an urgency for the further consideration of soldiers' problems. The feeling was widespread that the obligaitons of the country toward the returned men had not been fulfilled as they should be.

INTERESTED IN VETERANS

He was profoundly interested in the men, whom he knew and with whom he served. He knew their strength and their weakness, knew how they bore themselves in battle; knew their pride in themselves and their faith in each other. However, he did not appear solely as a representative of the men who served at the front. The returned men were as much concerned in the welfare of the country as any other group. They did not wish to add one unnecessary cent to the burden of the country. It was only a question of setting up the machinery to fulfil the intentions of the people of the country.

The returned soldiers thought only as the public thought.

It was now almost impossible, Sir Arthur said, for the applicant in many cases to prove hat his disability was due to war service.

Sir Arthur did not speak for any malingerers in the war, but only for the deserving. He did not appear to make any destructive criticism, but showed a desire to help out the committee in its problems.

He went on to outline broadly the British pension system based on a contract.

It helped their morale to know that their dependents would be looked after and a pension would go with any disability.

NO FAULT WITH SCALE

"We can find no fault with the Canadian scale of pensions; it is higher than that of any country I know," declared Sir Arthur, who said the Pension Board, in applying the act, was a court of law and equity. Many thought the machinery was not functioning properly and it was for the committee to find out why. One dissatisfaction arose from the fact that the Pension Act is a legal document. Many applying for a pension were not aware of this, while people who were not entitled to it often applied. It would be better if, when a pension is rejected, the applicant should be told why. Failure to do so bred dissatisfaction.

Dissatisfaction also arose over the award of disability, for example, 10 per cent. being allowed. When a higher award is claimed, it was often physically impossible to prepare the case as the forms called for. A man should have assistance in preparing his case.

"I am not convinced that the soldiers advisers do their work as they should. I think the services of the Canadian Legion should be utilized."

DIFFICULTY IN MACHINERY

Sir Arthur asserted the difficulty does not arise in the act itself but in the machinery for the administration of the act. It needs revision and renewal, he said, pointing out the difficulty of the board at times in interpreting such things as attributability.

Sir Arthur described the case of a man who was really ill but insisted on staying in service nevertheless.

Afterwards he developed sciatica, and got a $6 pension. Finally, when the case was diagnosed as arthritis, the pension was cut off. He has to drag himself about to look after the chickens that provide him with the means of a living. Not a man in this country will say that this was was fairly dealt with.

The Soldiers' Allowance Bill, in his opinion, was social legislation which ought not to be administered by the Pension Board. If it went there, many a person entitled to a pension would be put off by it. The age should be 60 not 65. When a man, with such an allowance died it should be kept up for his widow and children for at least a year. He also expressed the opinion that in the committee administering the allowances there should be one or two experienced men and a representative of the legion.

EASIER APPEALS URGED

In all cases an appeal to the appeal board from the Pension Board should be possible. In conclusion, Sir Arthur reiterated that he did not wish to make everyone a potential pensioner or to add unnecessarily to the burden of taxation. He said that the problem was largely one of "interpreting" the act and providing it with the necessary machinery.

Sir Arthur thought the personnel of the Pension Board ought to be increased and it should be made an itinerant body.

To Chairman Power, Sir Arthur reiterated that he did not believe in having the act "wide open" so that everyone could be a potential pensioner. He will return for examination after the Legions' views have been presented.

Col. Lafleche of the Canadian Legion stated that for the first time all the soldiers' organizations appeared as one body. He spoke of the desirability of speedy action by Parliament in the final disposition of the case. Regarding the onus of proof, Col. Lafleche stated that without actually putting it in the law and perhaps paving the way to the payment of "two or three billion dollars," the returned men demand "the substance of the benefit of doubt," in all applications for pensions on the ground of their attributability to war service.

The committee was also addressed briefly by Col. Wood, president of The Canadian Army and Navy Veterans, and Capt. Rev. Sydney Lambert of the Amputation Association, who both expressed appreciation of the work of the present and previous committees. 'Chubby" Power, the chairman, and Col. Lafleche, who "knows his business," were praised.

Ex-Soldier Finds Nurse After Ten Years

Brighton—After a ten year's search a Brighton man has found the pretty war-time nurse whose careful and devoted nursing probably saved his life when he was wounded during the war.

The other day he was admitted into a private nursing home for an operation for appendicitis. The nurse who attended him was the girl who served in the war hospital. The announcement of their marriage has just been made.

Mr. James Speighton, a London business man living in Brighton, told me the romantic story of the happy finish to his long quest.

Her Devotion

"I was pretty badly wounded with a piece of shell in the back and was invalided home to England in a serious condition," he stated. "My night nurse was a pretty girl and we soon became firm friends.

"One night I reached a crisis and it was touch and go whether I would pull through. It was only her devoted nursing that saved my life.

"I got better and was removed to another hospital. We corresponded for a time and then I was passed fit for duty again and rejoined my regiment."

When he came out of the Army Mr. Speighton attempted to find the nurse and advertised in several newspapers for news of her. Finally he learned that she had gone abroad in the capacity of nurse to an invalid.

"I had given up all hope of ever finding her again when I was admitted into the nursing home at Brighton," he said. "You can imagine my surprise when the nurse came in and I discovered it was she.

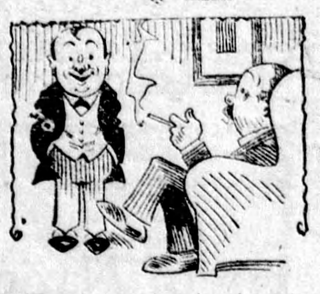
"We were not long in making up our minds to get married and as soon as I am fit again we intend to celebrate the wedding."

The Civilian and The Next War

"We have seen that military opinion is urging the point that modern weapons are most effective when directed, not against the enemy's army only, but against the heart of his nation," Writes Mr. C. P. Stracey in the Queen's Quarterly. "And if war is allowed to break out once more the contending nations may certainly be expected to use their weapons in the most effective manner possible.

"Those who expect the civilian to go scot-free in a possible encounter between Great Powers in the future would do well to consider an observation made a year or two ago by a most disinguished British general officer, in the course of a lecture on modern tendencies in military theory delivered to a group of English undergraduates: "Well, gentlemen, in wars up to the present time the civilian has gone out on the pavement and cheered as the troops marched away, and then he has gone in and broken the top off his egg and read all about it in the newspapers. Well, gentlemen, . . . he's never going to do it again."

"In the event of the statesmen of the world failing to avert another great war, it is probable that that summation of the matter will prove to be highly accurate."



"What is your boy learning at college?"

"I don't know. I can only tell you what he is studying."

New British Ambassador Calls On Hoover

SIR RONALD LINDSAY PRESENTS LETTERS OF CREDENCE AT WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON

The photograph here shows a scene at the White House, Washington, D.C., recently when Sir Ronald Lindsay, new British ambassador to the United States, called to present his letters of credence to President Hoover. Left to Right: Capt. Allen Buchanan, Sir Ronald Lindsay and Francis White of the state department.

War Secrets Revealed by U-Boat King

198 German Submarines that Did not Come Back—Yost by Mines, Gunfire—Lost in Nets

Every German submarine which put to sea in the war years of 1915-18 owed its equipment and a large part of its fighting efficiency to a grey-haired, broad-shouldered man who sat the other night in the lounge of a London hotel.

He was Captain Gustave Luppe, formerly Senior Staff Officer in the Department of Submarine Operations, in charge of personnel and replacements.

Captain Luppe is no longer a German naval officer with a high command; he is now a commercial man engaged in negotiations with a group of English friends, but he carries in his memory more secrets of the intensive submarine warfare against England than any other German living.

Six Months' Training

"No one in your country—or in Germany for that matter,' he said to a representative, "has any real idea of the difficulties under which we labored to keep our submarine warfare in force.

"We lost in all 198 U-boats. What happened to many of them we never knew. They did not come back, that was all. They were lost by mines, by gunfire, in nets—in a variety of different ways.

"And as best we could we built to replace our losses, but from 1916 onwards we were building with indifferent material—material which was often makeshift. As the material fell away from the first class, so did our men.

"Towards the end of the war we were training crews in six months—altogether too short a time. Our submarines then were of such a class that after a month at sea they needed two months for refit and repairs.

"Thus, altogether at one time we had a total of 300, we never had more than 100 in readiness.

"We were short of torpedoes, short of everything. Our requirements in torpedoes at one period were 180 a week. We could not find that number. I remember I had to go to Austria to try to borrow torpedoes.

"The Austrian Navy used only fifty-seven torpedoes during the whole course of the war, but even so they were never able to provide us with any for our submarines.

"Why, when we sent four small submarines to Poland in sections for the use of the Austrian Navy we had to send our own workmen to put them together! We had to send food from Germany for our German workmen in the Austrian dockyards. The Austrians would never provide them with rations. Even when the submarines were built, the Austrian Navy never took them out against the enemy. They lacked the nerve.

Canada's Lumber Industry

Of the $170,000,000 invested in the lumber industry in Canada, $56,000,000 is in British Columbia, $45,000,000 in Ontario, and $37,000,000 in Quebec.

Insect Control

Insects are costly, their control one of the greatest problems with which any country is confronted.

Western Notes

Winnipeg—Wallace W. Robinson, formerly employed in the local branch of Stobie, Forlong and Matthews, was released on two years suspended sentence after pleading guilty in police court to theft of several thousand dollars worth of mining stock from the company. Full restitution had been made.

Winnipeg — Unemployment has swelled by one-third during the past week, according to records at the Unemployment Service of Canada. About 1,500 men are now registered as seeking work in the city. Return of workers from lumber camps in the north and east is given as reason for the increased idleness.

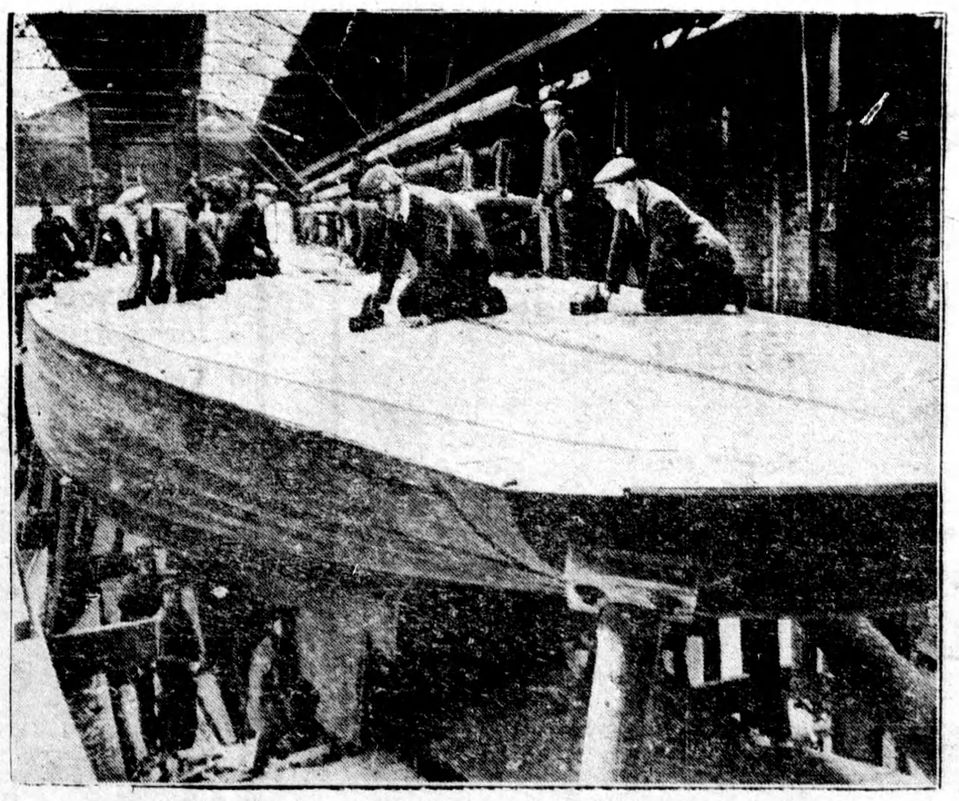
Winnipeg.—Convicted of a serious charge against a girl, Charles Galsky, was given a 10-year term in penitentiary by Mr. Justice Dysart. A previous sentence of 10 years and 10 lashes when Galsky was found guilty last fail had been set aside by the Court of Appeal.

Winnipeg.—James Grant, president of the Manitoba Association of Unemployed Ex-Service Men, has resigned from the position. J. Feeney, acting-president during Grant's absence at Ottawa recently with an unemployment delegation, is the new head. Grant was remanded for one week on a charge of converting funds of the organization to his own use.

Water-Fowl Suffer from Drought

Owing to drought conditions in Canada's Prairie Provinces during 1929 many ponds, prairie sloughs, and shallow lakes used for breeding purposes by water-fowl were dried up.

Shamrock V Will Make the Fnal Effort of the Sporting Knight



ALL THE SKILL OF BRITISH BOAT BUILDERS BROUGHT INTO PLAY

Workmen at work on deck and keel of Shamrock V, Sir Thomas Lipton's challenge craft for coveted America Cup, at Shipyards at Grosport, Eng. This is noted British sportman's fifth attempt to wrest away the trophy.

A New Menace To Canadian Wheat Farmer

Australian Growers Are Now Asking for a Bounty on Export Wheat

Ottawa.—A new menace to the Canadian wheat grower looms.

Australian farmers are asking their government to pay a bounty on the export of wheat, or guarantee the price at five shillings ($1.21½) per bushel, or both. They have already persuaded the government to appoint a Board to market their wheat and to make pooling compulsory.

But they are not content.

They want to be in the position of the German farmers who have been paid bounties to export wheat to the British market.

The Australian farmers will not be exporting much wheat this year, but if they have their way, they may be sending bounty-fed wheat to Britain in competition with Canadian wheat. It would not be the first time Australia paid export bounties with the idea of encouraging primary production. Some years ago it paid bounty on the export of butter. Canada regarded the entrance of bounty butter into her markets as dumping and imposed a countervailing duty.

The Australian farmers have their claim for an export bounty on wheat or a guaranteed price, or both, on the uncertainty of the results from wheat production. Some years, after allowing for interest on investment, the returns from the wheat crop leave nothing for the farmer's own, or hired labor. The average farmer producing wheat has to rely for one-third of his income on side lines, wool, lambs, eggs, cream, etc., it is claimed.

The average cost of growing wheat, on the basis of the experiments of the Australian Government Demonstration Farm at Turretfield over a period of seven years (1922-1928 inclusive), is 4s. 11d., while the cost of teaming to the elevators is 2.5 pence. The inclusive cost of growing and delivery to the market as represented by the elevator, is thus 5s. 1½ d., or $1.24½.

The estimate is for a 300 acre farm yielding 19.64 bushels of wheat per acre. The yield per acre on the Turretfield Demonstration Farm varied during seven consecutive years from 9.93 bushels per acre to 23.91 bushels per acre, but the average yield was 19.64 bushels per acre, with a range of 21.7 per cent. above and 49.4 per cent. below.

The cost of production per acre at the Experimental Farm was distributed as follows:

	£	s.	d.
Labor	1.	4.	0
Use of Horses		16.	7
Use of implements		6.	5
Seed		9.	0
Essential Materials		12.	9
Incidentals		4.	0
Int. on Working Capital		7.	2
Rent 18 months		16.	1
Totals	4.	16.	0

Divided by 19.64 bushels per acre this makes the cost per bushel on the farm 4s. 11d. or $1.21½ cents. On that basis the farmer has to receive a price of over $1.21 to make any net profit.

Another division of the average costs per acre on the Australian Demonstration Farm over the period 1922-28 is given as follows:

	£	s.	d.
Preparation of fallows to March 31	1.	0.	0
Seeding Operations	1.	3.	11
Harvesting Operations		17.	0
Incidental Expenses		11.	10
Int. in Working Capital		7.	2
Rent for 18 months		16.	1
Total	4.	16.	0

Or 4s. 11d. per bushel on a yield of 19.64 bushels per acre.

Last year's production costs, the AAustralian farmers claim were higher than the average for 1922-28, and that to meet rising costs greater efforts must be made to increase the yield per acre. If a crop is badly put in, the chances are that the returns will not cover the cost of production, they say.

Australia's none too satisfactory financial position makes it imperative that her government use every feasible means of encouraging increases in exports.

WIT AND WISDOM

Be rather wise than witty; for much wit hath commonly much froth, and 'tis hard to jest, and not sometimes jeer, too; which many times sink deeper that was intended or expected; and that was designed for mirth ends in saness.—G. Trenchil.

Novelist—"I'm looking for an honest lawyer."

Artist—"Then keep on travelling to the Never Never Land."