

WAR VETERANS!

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHOM TO THANK FOR ALL MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED IN THIS YEAR'S REVISION OF THE PENSION ACT . . .

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHOM TO REPROACH FOR THE FACT THAT DISABILITY VICTIMS HAVE BEEN FORCED TO WAIT SO LONG FOR SIMPLE JUSTICE . . .

READ THIS STORY OF INSIDE FACTS FROM THE OFFICIAL RECORD, AND THE AMAZING SEQUEL THAT MARKS ITS CLIMAX!

Fact No. 1 Back in April, 1927, Hon. R. B. Bennett called the attention of the House of Commons to the injustice that was being done a great number of disabled war veterans as a result of the interpretation and application of the Pension Act. Following this he moved an amendment, one clause of which provided that the Act should be construed as "remedial legislation" (that is, to be construed in favor of the applicant) and that if there should be any reasonable doubt as to the right of a soldier to a pension, he should be given the benefit of the doubt.

Another clause provided that in cases where a man was discharged from the army with a disability, and had not wilfully concealed such disability if existing at the time of enlistment, then such disability should be attributed entirely to war service.

Fact No. 2 In the debate which followed, the Solicitor-General and the Minister of Soldiers' Re-establishment, speaking on behalf of the Government, opposed the amendment, and on a vote being taken it was declared lost by 95 to 78. Every Liberal member in the House at the time, the Prime Minister included, voted against it.

Fact No. 3 Thirty-one months slipped by—thirty-one months of growing resentment at the Government's continued inactivity.

Then on November 27, 1929, from his sick bed in Montreal, Sir Arthur Currie wrote to his comrades-in-arms, in convention at the time in Regina, urging them to insist upon a complete redrafting not only of the Act itself but of the regulations under the Act.

That letter, when released for publication touched a responsive chord in millions of hearts right across Canada, and created a sentiment that the King Government realized it could not afford to ignore.

Fact No. 4 On December 16, 1929, with the probability of an election drawing near, Premier King, speaking at London said that he and his Government felt the existing legislation should be interpreted by the Board of Pension Commissioners in a liberal manner, to the end that disabled veterans might obtain, not merely cold justice, but the most considerate treatment possible.

Fact No. 5 When the House met, the Speech from the Throne said that the operations of the Pension Act had been studied and "your attention will be invited to legislation to make more adequate provision for the needs of the veterans of the Great War and their dependents."

Fact No. 6 On February 26 last, before there was any indication of the details of the Government's policy, Dr. McGibbon (Conservative) moved a resolution to the effect that in any amendment of the Pension Act the onus of proof of disability be lifted from the veteran. Mr. Ernst (Conservative) moved an amendment to widen and strengthen the resolution in the interests of the soldier.

Fact No. 7 While the debate on this resolution was still in progress, the Minister of Soldiers' Re-establishment (Dr. King, who has since been retired to the Senate) brought down on March 4th the Pension legislation referred to in the Speech from the Throne. Instead of the liberal treatment forecasted by the Prime Minister at London, all it contained were provisions

a.—To bring ex-service men under the Old Age Pension Act at 65 instead of 70, and at an earlier age if they were entirely unemployed;

b.—To give the veteran, in lieu of a war pension, a dole of \$20 a month.

Fact No. 8 Asked by General Clark (Conservative) if these were the major matters to be referred to the Special Committee that had previously been appointed to report on the Bill, the Minister said they were. Asked again by General Clark if there were any other specific matters to be referred to the Committee, the Minister said there were none.

These questions and answers remove any doubt that that was fully as far as the Government intended to go.

Fact No. 9 The debate on the McGibbon resolution and the Ernst amendment lasted all told ten days, with denunciation after denunciation of the Government for its indifference to the veterans' problems. Finally Premier King enforced closure, but only after first capitulating and agreeing that the scope of the Special Committee would be broadened.

Fact No. 10 Out of nineteen members on that Committee, the Conservative party were allowed seven—all returned soldiers. Out of ten Liberal members, only four were returned soldiers. Thus a majority of the Committee had seen war service. And a majority of that majority were Conservatives.

Fact No. 11 Everything that was done by that Committee, was done in spite of the Government's policy as laid down by the Minister of Soldiers' Re-establishment in his Bill of March 4.

Fact No. 12 The findings of the Committee as reported to the House, in a form immensely broader and more liberal than the original Bill, were unanimously adopted on May 20. Speakers from both sides (including Dr. King and Major Power for the Liberals) agreed that the legislation was not to be considered a political matter, and that no party was to attempt to take credit for it. The House unanimously concurred in this statement of principle that soldiers' problems were, for the future, to be left entirely out of party politics.

And Now for the Amazing Sequel!

Fact No. 13 At the very opening of the campaign, the Prime Minister, at least one of his cabinet ministers and a score of private members at once claimed for the Liberal party parentage of all the legislation adopted at the session just closed for the relief of war veterans and their dependents. At Brantford, on June 16, the Prime Minister said "It was the present administration which took full responsibility in the matter."

On June 17, the Owen Sound Sun-Times carried a half page advertisement in support of the candidature of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, where credit for every reform effected this year in the interests of returned soldiers was blandly claimed for the Liberal party.

Major Power, Chairman of the Special Committee, who from his seat in the House had spoken in favor of the arrangement to keep the matter out of politics, has taken the platform at political meetings to explain the legislation and to purposely create the impression that the Liberal administration was to be given full credit therefor.

BECAUSE OF THE DELIBERATELY MISCHIEVOUS AND MISLEADING STATEMENTS THAT ARE BEING MADE EVERYWHERE BY LIBERAL SPEAKERS, IN DIRECT VIOLATION OF A UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT TO KEEP THE SOLDIERS' PROBLEMS OUT OF POLITICS, THE LIBERAL-CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO HAS AUTHORIZED THE ABOVE STATEMENT, IN ORDER THAT THE PUBLIC MAY HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY THE FACTS AND TO DRAW THEIR OWN CONCLUSIONS.

VOTE FOR W. A. GORDON
Conservative Candidate