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The Legions are Rendering Real Service to Veterans and Nation

Veterans and Dependents Bring Pension Problems and Other Troubles to Never-Failing Source of Advice and Assistance—Demands for Assistance by the Legion Have More Than Doubled Since the Enactment of the New Pension-Legislation.

Wherever a Canadian Legion Branch is located there many war veterans and dependents go for advice and assistance. For the Legion, from the most obscure private member up to the Grand President, carries before it as an impelling duty and privilege that paragraph of its favored aims and objects, which states: "To see to the maintenance and comfort of those who require special treatment, of the disabled, sick, aged and needy; and to promote the welfare of the women and children and others, their dependents."

Can Turn To Province
The local branch endeavors insofar as its resources will permit, to render aid to those seeking such, but when the problem is of a nature requiring especially expert attention it is immediately referred to the Legion's Provincial Service Bureau. In Ontario beside the Bureau at Provincial Headquarters in Toronto, sub-offices are maintained at London and Windsor. Quite often cases can be adjusted with the district offices of the Department of Pensions and National Health, but when a claim has to be dealt with at the seat of Government in Ottawa, then, there is the efficient Dominion Headquarters Service Bureau to be relied upon.

With the creation of the new pension machinery under the amended legislation of 1930, some might enquire: "What further need is there for Legion Service Bureaus when Parliament has set up the Veterans' Bureau at Ottawa and appointed numerous pension advocates throughout the country?"

Demands Have Doubled
Surprising as it may seem, the demands for assistance by the Legion have more than doubled since the new legislation became effective. The Veterans' Bureau and the Pension Advocates have been literally swamped with the work of preparing cases already in hand for hearing by the Pensions Tribunals and arguing appeals before the Pensions Appeal Courts. The Legion Service Bureaus have been called upon to do, as in the past, a great deal of the spade work of gathering evidence and making preliminary presentation of cases to the Board of Pension Commissioners. With help inspired by the new legislation, thousands of veterans and dependents have renewed previously-rejected claims. Considerable numbers of renewed claims has fallen upon the Legion. As an indication, every month since last July the filing equipment of Dominion Headquarters Service Bureau has had to be increased, and is now almost double that of nine months ago.

Service Work Development
In the following paragraphs something of the genesis and development of this service work by the Legion is given, particularly as it relates to the Dominion Headquarters Bureau:

It is a favorite assertion of public speakers, and no doubt true, that Canada achieved nationhood as a result of her efforts in the Great War. Prior to the outbreak of the war no one would have had the temerity to prophesy that this nation of less than six million people could have contributed to men, wealth and enterprise to the extent that it did in the ensuing four and a quarter years. Starting with the first thirty-two thousand, the personnel of Canada's armed forces eventually passed the half-million mark. Her financial outlay reached a total that would have been appalling if the nation could have foreseen its commitments. From the first contingent, with its meagre equipment of machine guns and light artillery, our armaments expanded to include guns of the largest calibre, tanks, aeroplanes, and a mass of equipment that would have been the envy of a pre-war continental army. The name of Canada was to be found in every arm of the war machine. The achievements of her land forces, starting with the Second Battle of Ypres, were prodigious and time and again merited the fulsome praise of the higher commands of the Allied Armies and the grudging admiration of the enemy. In the air, the enterprise of the first few Canadians resulted in a large proportion of the Royal Air Force being enlisted from this Dominion. The sea-faring men of the two coasts did their share in the arduous work of the Royal Navy.

Greater Problems to Face
With the progress and conclusion of the conflict, Canada found herself confronted by resultant problems of magnitude and complexity for which there was no precedent. Thousands of casualties had to be treated and cared for, and brought back as far as was humanly possible to normalcy, physically and mentally. There were the dependents of those who had died or were disabled, to be provided for. There were many thousand men, fit and partially fit, to be rehabilitated, and given a place in the communities' life where they could continue to earn a satisfactory livelihood and contribute to the nation's upbuilding.

Turned to Comrades
In pioneering a way to the solution of these manifold problems it was not humanly possible to anticipate every con-



LT.-COL. J. KEELLOR MCKAY

President of the Ontario Provincial Command. Ever since the Legion came into being he has given untiring service on its behalf, both as a Provincial and Dominion Officer.

dition or to find a satisfactory corrective. "The desire of the nation was to do its full duty to those who had suffered because of their service to the service of breadwinners. A special department of the Government was created to deal solely with these problems. Millions of dollars were expended in a hasty settlement scheme and lesser amounts for rehabilitation in other spheres of activity. Yet with it all there arose a mass of individual problems which could not be definitely solved by existing provisions. Into this situation there came an element which had more to do with the satisfactory solution of most of these problems than any other source—the returned soldiers themselves. When soldiers' organizations first came into existence it was natural that the man with a problem should turn to his organized comrades for assistance. Each individual case was studied, supporting evidence gathered and the facts argued with the departmental officials concerned. This work brought a certain measure of relief, but as time passed the volume of individual problems increased and were more complicated.

Active From Outset
From the outset organized Canadian war veterans were active in making practical suggestions to Parliament. From these suggestions came the foundation principles of existing legislation. Year by year special committees of Parliament listened to proposals from veterans' organizations and drafted bills for amendments and additions as a result. When the union of the principal veterans' organizations brought into existence The Canadian Legion there was created from the adjustment services of the old bodies a department of Dominion Headquarters known as the "Service Bureau." Every branch of The Legion is potentially a "service bureau," adjusting local difficulties and receiving particulars of other problems to be passed on for the action of higher commands. A tremendous amount of work has been accomplished in this way, as well as through the efforts of district and provincial commands. But the spear-head of The Legion's efforts in securing remedial legislation and in solving the most complicated of the individual problem cases is in the highly efficient bureau in the Capital City.

Personal Attention Received
Of the many hundreds of separate organizations and welfare institutions throughout the Dominion, there are none that merit the title of "human" more than The Legion's Bureau at Ottawa. Looking over the long row of filing cabinets containing the documents of many thousand individual cases, the casual visitor might feel justified in thinking of the Bureau as a business machine. But contact with the work of the adjustment officers would soon dispel such an erroneous impression. Every case becomes the personal concern and responsibility of the officer to whom it is entrusted. Years of experience have taught him that there are certain essentials to the satisfactory adjustment of each claim and he sets about methodically and painstakingly to explore every possible channel which might substantiate the claim.

Onus with Applicant
Perhaps the most apparent weakness of pension and treatment legislation lies in the fact that it treated William Brown as entitled to rest wholly with the applicant. There are very few veterans who have any conception of the steps necessary to prove their claims. They cannot understand why a letter from the mayor or other prominent citizen in their community stating generally that "William Brown served overseas in the war and since then has been unable to work steadily; I think he should be given a pension," does not constitute evidence. Neither can the veteran or the doctor understand why the department refuses

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THE CANADIAN LEGION

The boys of the Old Brigade are standing shoulder to shoulder. Through the great nation-wide organization of the Canadian Legion the wounded, the tubercular, the blind, the distressed, are helped by their more fortunate brothers. The old spirit of the fighting force in France, of giving the other fellow a "leg up," clings to the Legion with all the memories and pathos of the war years. A great deal of money has been raised by this organization and the good it has done cannot be estimated. The faithfulness and self-sacrifice, that is the corner stone of its foundation, should make some of the rest of us hang our heads in shame when we consider our indifference.

It is not the spirit of "flag waving" patriotism, or the glibly shouting of the fervent recruiting officer, that makes the Legion such a force in Canada today, but loyalty, brotherhood, and sympathy. It is natural to put the thought of war as far away from us as possible but we must not disregard the consequences. Our children will be paying off the huge war debt long after we are gone but right now there is a humanitarian debt that we alone can discharge. The wreckage cast up by the storm must be conserved, brought back to usefulness, and normalcy.

The Canadian Legion knows the very heart and soul of the pensioners and the hospital cases. It is more able to help than anyone. The veteran who has not identified himself with the Legion are shirking. It is a hard word to use because it has real significance to an ex-soldier. But when he has the memories of 1914-18 always with him surely he can help his conscience by doing a bit to alleviate the sufferings of those who were not so fortunate.

The local Legion is sending out the "fall in." Every veteran in the community will be conscious of its significance.

Handsome Trophies for Winning Groups

Magnificent Silver Cups Going to Legion Securing Greatest Increase

Three handsome silver cups are to be awarded for results secured during the Campaign. The first will go to the Branch in the Province securing the greatest increase in membership during the campaign. Every Branch, large and small, will have an equal chance, as the cup is going to be awarded to the Branch having the greatest percentage of increase on their paid up membership as at March 31. And, mind this, by the way some Branches are talking, it is going to be necessary to have somewhere near a hundred per cent. increase to be in the money. Still, don't let that discourage you. Hard plugging will tell the tale on the last day of April.

Life Membership Standing
The Branch securing the largest number of Life Members during the month will secure the second. Here is a field that has been largely untouched to date and offers a wonderful opportunity. The special circular on Life Membership will tell you all about it.

Third for Zone Heads
To the Zone representative whose Zone shows the largest increase in membership during the campaign a third cup will be given. Get behind your representative and show the other Zones what you can do in your district.

It is hoped that the Grand President of the British Empire Service League will be with us during our Provincial Convention at Oshawa in August, and it is hoped that he will consent to present these cups to the winners at that time.

HIS EXCELLENCY IS LEGIONNAIRE

Earl of Beesborough Pays Dues and Enrols in Canadian Legion

Ottawa, April 10.—Paying three dollars dues and 50 cents for a badge, the Earl of Beesborough, who saw service through the war on the staff of Field Marshal Sir Henry Wilson, to-day became an active member of the Canadian Legion. In making out his application form, His Excellency wrote down his occupation as "Governor-General of Canada." He gave his term of service as 1914-18, his rank on discharge as captain, and his next-of-kin as the Countess of Beesborough.

His Excellency is already a member of the British Legion. Having paid his dues and having had his application accepted, he now ranks with the hundreds returned men in the Canadian Legion. He is no honorary membership. It was emphasized by Thomas Wayling, Chairman of the Legion's Ottawa Membership Committee, who took the vice-regal application. On becoming a Legionnaire the Governor-General issued the following statement to veterans in Canada: "As a member of the British Legion, I am proud to join the Canadian Legion also, for I well know how much the Legion has done throughout the Empire to perpetuate the best legacy of the war—the spirit of fellowship and mutual confidence between all ranks of the Expeditionary Forces."

Assistance Needed and Deserved
The Acton Legion now has an opportunity of doing much to further make Halton County outstanding in the Province. The worthy ideals of this organization make it highly deserving of co-operation from anyone and everyone eligible for membership.

Acton Branch is the Youngest Member of the Provincial Command

Has Only Been Organized a Few Weeks but Will Start Out on Charter Night with a Membership of Thirty-seven. The Youngest Post is Showing the Activity of Youth.

Acton Branch, No. 197, of the Canadian Legion will be but four weeks old on Saturday next, but in this brief period they have shown much activity and the few weeks have been busy ones and already much good has been accomplished. Acton Branch is the youngest branch of the Legion in the Province.

In the Council Chamber a few weeks ago, the foundation of Acton Post was contemplated, with the following officers:

PRESIDENT—W. J. GOULD
FIRST VICE-PRES.—J. M. McDONALD
SECOND VICE-PRES.—B. G. ARNOLD
SECRETARY-TREAS.—P. L. WRIGHT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
W. KECLESHALL
P. RONEY

Other members to be elected at a later meeting. Following that meeting the drive for membership has been on and on Charter Night—Tuesday night next—when the Acton Post will be presented with their new charter. The organization has a membership of thirty-seven. The following are the members now enrolled:

- LEGIONNAIRE W. J. GOULD
- LEGIONNAIRE J. M. McDONALD
- LEGIONNAIRE B. G. ARNOLD
- LEGIONNAIRE P. L. WRIGHT
- LEGIONNAIRE F. RONEY
- LEGIONNAIRE W. KECLESHALL
- LEGIONNAIRE DR. P. W. PHARREN
- LEGIONNAIRE W. COMER
- LEGIONNAIRE J. WILDEBERG
- LEGIONNAIRE C. D. THOMPSON
- LEGIONNAIRE A. K. PADHURY
- LEGIONNAIRE S. HIRSH
- LEGIONNAIRE W. D. HERTON
- LEGIONNAIRE J. A. MILNE
- LEGIONNAIRE H. GREENWOOD
- LEGIONNAIRE W. T. EARLY
- LEGIONNAIRE D. J. NEWMAN
- LEGIONNAIRE J. P. SCARROW
- LEGIONNAIRE J. M. SCOTT
- LEGIONNAIRE L. G. KING
- LEGIONNAIRE J. MILLS
- LEGIONNAIRE G. POIR
- LEGIONNAIRE R. DONNAR
- LEGIONNAIRE C. WITTEH
- LEGIONNAIRE A. G. MITCHELL
- LEGIONNAIRE N. S. MARSHALL
- LEGIONNAIRE J. McGEACHIE
- LEGIONNAIRE J. GIBBONS
- LEGIONNAIRE W. J. LAWSON
- LEGIONNAIRE PERRY WATSON
- LEGIONNAIRE J. A. ANDERSON
- LEGIONNAIRE F. DAY
- LEGIONNAIRE F. J. BALT
- LEGIONNAIRE J. JENNINGS
- LEGIONNAIRE B. BAYLESS
- LEGIONNAIRE J. D. LOUETTE
- LEGIONNAIRE J. A. ROBINSON
- LEGIONNAIRE CAMERON LEIGHMAN

The need of a well-organized body of ex-service men in the community has been felt for some time. The need of such a body in every community, linking up with the Provincial and Dominion branches is apparent in every centre. There is work a-plenty to be accomplished by and for these ex-service men. The drive for membership throughout the Province will meet with the approval of every citizen and Acton's organization starts off at a very opportune time. For the few weeks that Acton Legion has been in existence they have ranked well in the province-wide membership drive. Their Charter Night on Tuesday next promises to be an outstanding occasion. Among the prominent men who have signified their intention of attending is Lt.-Col. Pecking, the Honorary Secretary, and Col. A. O. T. Beardmore, of Toronto.

THE RIGHT OF WAY

I am at a railway station. Down yonder a freight train has been standing still for a quarter of an hour. A local passenger train swings in on a siding at the other end of the yard. A hand-car with a track crew comes up and it is lifted aside, and they sit down to rest. What is the mystery? In a minute comes the answer. A whistle blows and the International Limited flashes by at sixty miles an hour. Its first stop is fifty miles down the line. It will be there on time. David Starr Jordan said, "The world steps aside to let any man pass who knows where he is going." Some folks are being continually held up, sidetracked, postponed by circumstances, because they do not know where they are going, have never got up any momentum in life. Some are merely dilly-dallying with frivolous and unworthy matters. Some with drink or drug habits are much of the time in a dreamy or unconscious state. There is the odd-job man who zigzags his way through life. Another depends on chance. A man spent a winter in Rome among its vast treasures of art, literature and religion. When he went home all he knew about Rome was its lotteries. Stake out and claim your right of way.

BORN UNDER A TRUCK

Teacher—"Johnny, can you tell me what a waffle is?"
Johnny—"Yes'm, it's a pancake with a non-skid tread."



COL. A. O. T. BEARDMORE

Who has always taken an active interest in the welfare of Acton and its organizations, and will be a guest on Charter Night.

SETH PARKER SAYS

Jim Fletcher was a handsome strapping feller and one of the quickest fellers on his feet I ever see. They tell the story about Jim being at one of the lumber camps up in the woods and running after a moose and jumping on his back, but I kind of think that's a mite exaggerated. A moose can run pretty fast, yer know, but anyhow, Jim was extra ordinary when it came to athletics. Well, when war was declared, Jim was among the first to enlist. He went off to camp and they sent him to France and he was all over the place, from what I can gather.

When the Armistice was signed Jim came home again, but he didn't come just the same as he'd left. He brought a little French wife with him and some of that gas had got into his lungs and he used to get to cough so it would just about tear him apart.

Well, Jim and Marie, that was her name, settled down here in Jones port and got a little farm started in to do for a start. Jim commenced to fall, and in another year he passed along.

It was a blow to all of us, but it was worse for Marie. She pulled herself together for a time, 'cause there was a little baby what had come along to them, but before long though, she commenced to fade again. She stuck it out for a while, but her money was going and we saw her only chance was to get her home to France, so we all chipped in a mite and bought her ticket. It was a couple of years later before I learned the rest of the story, and when I did I was terrible upset I hadn't took better care of her, but this was the way it went. When she got on the boat she only had ten dollars in her pocket beside the ticket and after she was out a couple of days she learned that the boat didn't go direct to France, but was due for Germany. There she was with ten dollars in her pocket and a little baby in her arms landing way off in a strange country. She was standing by the rail one day looking out to sea and scared most to death when another woman came up and started talking to her. It weren't long before Marie'd told her what the matter was and the other woman suggested that she send a wireless to her father. Marie hadn't thought of that before so she went down to the wireless room and sent a message to her father to meet her.

All the next day she waited and no answer come and the next morning and the afternoon. In the evening as she was standing by the rail the wireless officer come out on deck, and give her a little yellow paper.

For a couple of minutes she didn't dare to look at it and then she unfolded it and read that her father would be there to meet her. Tears of happiness rolled down her face. "It says my father is going to be there," she cried aloud. "See, my father is going to be there."
There weren't no words in the world what could have meant so much to her in her hour of trouble as to know that her father was going to be there. You know, folks, when the time comes for me to cross to the other side, I don't think I'll worry much about the streets being paved with gold or what brand of harps the angels play on. I'm willing to take my chances, 'cause I know my Father is going to be there.

MYSTERY IN COMMON THINGS

There is a mystery in the meanest trade. . . One workman turns up a clod with his patient pick and opens a gold mine; another wields a rusty hoe and sets a bare acre all a-shine with flowers. . . a solitary axeman in a forest hews out a home for the heart. . . there is a mystery in the meanest trade: the humbler the trade the deeper the mystery.

"COME ALONG WITH US—CHUM!"

COMRADESHIP
CITIZENSHIP
SERVICE

YOU need the
CANADIAN LEGION
and the LEGION
needs YOU!

SECURE APPLICATIONS FROM

Acton Branch No. 197

W. J. GOULD, PRESIDENT
J. M. McDONALD, 1ST VICE-PRESIDENT
B. G. ARNOLD, 2ND VICE-PRESIDENT
P. L. WRIGHT, SECRETARY