

reason of the death or disablement of a member of the Forces and that they have not adequate means of support.

Wives.

Wives entitled to claim pensions may include those who were married in New Zealand within two years after discharge of husband, but marriages outside of New Zealand after disablement are not recognized without proof of engagement before husband's departure. Pensions to wives are at the discretion of the War Pensions Board, having regard to the extent of the husband's disablement and his ability to support his family. To ensure widows' benefits in the event of husband's death from war service after discharge, a wife must have been married at date of disablement or produce evidence of engagement before husband's departure from New Zealand. Pensions are granted to widows and children for death from war service by right, without regard to income and property.

Widowed Mother.

The pension of a widowed mother whose son was her sole support is not less than the pension which would have been payable to a wife.

Advance Payments.

To facilitate the dealing with original claims a system has been instituted whereby the Pensions Department has been authorized, immediately upon receipt of a claim from a soldier whose medical papers show that his earning-capacity was affected by a war disability, to pay a flat-rate allowance of £1 10s. a week pending the Board's decision being obtained, a provisional certificate being issued to enable the soldier to collect an initial instalment of £6 10s. on the 23rd day of the month in which he

is discharged. If the pension eventually granted by the Board is greater than that provisionally paid the balance is made up to the soldier, and if the grant is less no refund is asked for.

Pensions payable outside New Zealand.

Pensions may be paid outside New Zealand to members of the Forces, their wives, children, and parents, but not to any other dependants.

Supplementary Pensions.

In addition to the scale of pension for disablement the Pensions Board has power to award a supplementary pension up to £1 weekly to disabled soldiers where earning-capacity precludes the enjoyment of pre-war standard of living, with a limit of £5 per week to all the pensions payable in respect of his disablement; and a supplementary pension up to 15s. weekly to widows if this is necessary to maintain their pre-war standard of living, with a limit of £4 per week.

If a disabled soldier requires an attendant, a payment up to £1 weekly may be made for this purpose.

Income Exemption for Old-age and Widows' Pensions.

Any pension payable under the War Pensions Act is exempted as income in the computation of old-age and widows' pensions under the Pensions Act, 1913.

Imperial Pensions.

The Pensions Board is empowered to pay the difference between Imperial pensions and the New Zealand rates in the case of *bona fide* residents of New Zealand who, as Imperial Reservists, were mobilized in New Zealand or who enlisted in New Zealand for service in the Imperial Forces.