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WAR CRATUITIES.

A War Gratuity is a free gift made by a Nation or State to its soldiers at the successful conclusion of a war, in recognition of their services rendered during the period of war. This gratuity is over and above all pay received, and of course, cannot be claimed as a right. After the South African War the gratuity paid to members of New Zealand Forces varied from £5 for a private to £30 for a lieuten. ant, £60 for a captain, £80 for a major, £160 for a lieut.col. and £2,000 for a general. The following countries participating in the late war paid out as a National thanksgiving the following gratui-

1.-Australia: 1s 6d a day from the date of embarkation to the 28th June, 1919.

2.—Britain: Officers received a gratuity of 124 days' pay for the first year of Active Service and 62 days pay for each succeeding year; the maximum time being 5 years. The minimum gratuity paid to a private was £5, a corporal £6, a sergeant £8, and a W.O. £15. Soldiers who completed more than 12 months' service received 10s a month in addition for War Services Overseas; or 5s a month with no such service. When the total War Service did not amount to more than six months a soldier was not eligible for gratuity unless a portion had been rendered Overseas.

3.—Canada: For three years' service a gratuity of 183 days' pay was given; for 2 years' service 153 days' pay was ailowed; for 1 year (or under) 122 days' pay was allowed. In every case the pay allowed per day was not less than that of a sergeant.

4 .- New Zealand : A flat rate of 1s 6d per day.

5.-United States: A gratuity of 10 dollars a month for each month of service was allowed with a minimum of 50 dollars.

In the case of all New Zealand troops, the gratuity commenced to run from the date of embarkation, as it was a payment for service Overseas. Roughly speaking all soldiers fell into one of the three following categories :-

1. Those who lost their lives.

2. Those badly wounded and sent home as unfit.

3. Fit men.

Recognising these three main classes the Government agreed upon the following:---1. For those who lost their lives on Ac-

tive Service, the gratuity was payable up to date of a man's decease, but in no case was the gratuity paid to be less than two

2. For those who were sent back unfit owing to wounds or sickness confincted in a theatre of war the minimum gratuity was fixed at eighteen months, but if the soldier spent six months as an inpatient in a hospital after his return the minimum was fixed at two years.

3. For those in the third category payment was made up to (a) The date of disembarkation or (b) the date of discharge abroad or (c) the 28th June, 1919, whichever came first.

Having decided the amount of gratuity and the limits of payment the Government then determined who was to receive a deceased soldiers' gratuity; it was decided to pay this over to (or divide between) his widow, his children, his father, his mother or any other dependant who was in receipt of his pension.

In the case of a living soldier whom the Defence Department thought incapable of looking after a large sum of money, provision was made to pay the money to his wife and family, or even, in some cases to a society able to distribute the money in interests of the family. In all cases the Government has particularly watched the interests of children. 🗽 🕳

The gratuity was paid not only for service overseas but for honourable service overseas; thus, any person (a) who forfeited any pay by Royal Warrant (b) who forfeited more than 28 days' pay (c) who had pay stopped in hospital as the result of misconduct or (d) who had pay stopped for illness caused by the soldier making himself unfit for service, had the same number of days deducted from his total.

Furthermore, no gratuity was paid to an officer whose services were dispensed with or who resigned or who has been struck off the strength from any cause which in the opinion of the Ct.O.C. disqualifies nim for gratuity; and no soldier received a gratuity who was discharged with ignominy or on account of misconduct.

The payment of gratuities commenced on the 11th October, 1919 and thousands of pounds were paid out daily; the month showing the greatest payment was January 1920, when the sum of £1,098,000 was paid out. The total amount paid out up to the 31st August, is £5,423,000. The Government originally set aside £5,513,000 for this purpose so that they may be complimented on their accurate calculation; £100,000 more will be needed to pay all gratuity anomalies.

As soon as payment commenced, flaws or anomalies were found in the Defence Department's Regulations, consequently at the suggestion of the Defence Minister, Sir James Allen, a committee consisting of Colonels Esson and Hutchen and Mr Aldrich was formed in April, 1920, to enquire into all cases which the regulations did not provide for. Over 200 cases were produced for the first adjudication, but before considering each case on its merits, general rules were framed, for guidance. The main principles laid down were :-1.—Gratuities in the case of deceased sol-

It was found that in many cases where a soldier died either on Active Service or after returning to New Zealand, before gratuity had been paid, there was often no relative or dependant eligible according to the Act, to receive the gratuity (widow, children, father, or mother) the committee considered that sub-section 5 of section 7 of the Expeditionary Forces Amendment Act, 1918, as amended by subsection 2 of section 24 of the Finance Act, 1919, should be further amended to provide in the case of any officer, n.c.o., or man, who, after service in the N.Z.E.F. beyond the seas, has died while a member of that force, or who, after such service beyond the seas, has died after being hon. ourably discharged from the force without receiving his gratuity the latter may, if their are no claimants within the present statutory authority, be paid to or divided between his next of kin, beneficiary under the Will, allottee, or any person or persons whom the Minister of Defence thinks fit. Thus, when a gratuity is due to a

To the relatives of a deceased soldier, the Australian Authorities paid the gratuity up to the 28th June, irrespective of when the man died.

soldier, someone will receive it.

2.-Period of service in New Zealand on

It was considered that the principles that gratuities were payable for service outside New Zealand should be adhered to. This resolution was passed as a result of several applications that were received from men who returned to New Zealand for Commissions. The majority of these men improved their positions by returning to New Zealand, consequently they do not suffer any undue hardship through this period not counting as qualifying service for gratuity.

3.-Minimum gratuity in the case of soldiers evacuated from a theatre of war.

Each case should be considered on its merits as the committee decided that there might be, owing to special circumstances, cases where a soldier should be considered as eligible for the minimum gratuity of two years, even although he was not evacuated from an actual theatre of war.

4.-Minimum gratuity of two years, payable in cases where soldiers have had six calendar months continuous hospital treatment after they returned to N.Z., evacuated from a theatre of war.

The committee considered that they should not be tied to six months' continuous treatment, but they would be prepared to recommend that a soldier should receive the two years' minimum if he was had considerable periods of hospital treat. ment in Now Zealand at intervals both as an out-patient and as an in-patient. 5.—Payment of gratuities to V.A.D.'s.

To qualify for a gratuity under the present regulations a V.A.D .-

1.-Must have signed an agreement to

serve with the N.Z.E.F. 2.-Must have served for not less than 12 months continuously with the N.Z.E.F. 3:-Must have been paid by Government

4.-Must have been domiciled in New

5.-Must have been administered by the

The committee recommended that conditions 2 and 4 be deleted, this means that all V.A.D..'s paid and administered by the N.Z.E.F. will receive a gratuity.

6.—Cases of sick and wounded evacuated to New Zealand, and who later proceeded again on Active Service.

The committee recommended that payment of gratuity for the first period should be a minimum of 18 months and the actual time served for the second.

7.-Men who returned to New Zealand wounded and were sent Home, to England for further treatment.

That in the case of those who after return to New Zealand wounded, were subsequently sent to England for further treatment, the period of absence from New Zealand for the purpose of such treat. ment should count as qualifying service for gratuity. This applies to limbless cases returned from Egypt to New Zealand in the early days of the war, who had subsequently to be sent to England for fitting of limbs.

"For mine own part, I shall be glad to learn of noble men."-Shakeapeare,

CARDEN NOTES.

THE VEGETABLE GARDEN.

It behoves each and every one to take advantage of moist conditions of the soil to get in all unsown crops and plants. It is not only better for seeds and plants to go in immediately after rain, but it saves a great deal of care and labour in watering and watching. If planting or sowing is left until the ground becomes dry, things do not get the same chance. Plant cauliflowers and cabbage.

Sow for succession peas of the main crop kinds, such as dwarf Defiance, Eureka, Pearless, or Dr Stuart. To sow such peas as William Hurst, and Little Gem I consider is to waste the ground at this season of the year, leaving out the marvellous difference of the quality of the pea; in fact, even for very early sowing I consider these small kinds are quite outclassed either for crop or quality. For an early or first sowing nothing beats World's Record. I know this pea is hard to procure. Seed growers should grow lots of it for market purposes. Carter's Daisy is another fine early, also Early Giant and Early Marrowfat and Ideal.

Scarlet runners and French beans should be got in now. Scarlet runners do best when sown in double rows. Lay the line, draw a drill on either side of the line, and place the beans 6in apart in each drill. When they come through they come directly in contact with the stakes, or whatever material is used.

Dwarf French beans should be sown in drills 18in to 2ft apart, and the seed 2in or 3in apart in the rows. Thus they do much better, and yield a finer crop than if sown more thickly.

The butter bean is very nice and a prolific cropper. This also should not be sown too thickly.

Sow beetroot. This plant scarcely obtains the attention it deserves. As a garnishing for dishes of various kinds, and also served up with cold meats, it is in the front rank as a useful and wholesome vegetable diet, and it therefore deserves greater attention, The cultivation is simple. It likes good soil, but it should not get a lot of fresh manure, or the roots become ugly and of not a good colour. Sow thinly in drills 15in to 18in apart,

THE FRUIT GARDEN.

and thin out to 6in apart.

Where the grafting of old and worthless apples or pears is desired it should be done at once. The sap is in full activity now, and the work should be attended to before it is too late. Cut the trees down to just above the lower forks and shave off the rough marks of the saw. The most successful kind of graft for these old trees is what is termed wedge or cleft grafting. The scion 18 cut wedge-shaped, tapering off to nothing on the inside. This must be done with a very sharp knife, and, if possible, with one clean cut from top to bottom. Then a similar cut is made into the side of the top of the stock, but rather narrower. A sharp chisel is driven in to open the stock; then insert the scion rather more than level, as the bark on the old tree is thicker than on the young, and this must be allowed for, so that the sap of both may come into direct contact. The chisel is then withdrawn and the scion is then held fast. Three eyes will be sufficient to leave on each scion. When this is done wax over the face and top of the cleft with grafting wax. To make this wax take equal parts beeswax, mutton fat, and resin; put the contents into a tin or jar, and place it inside a billy partly filled with water, and boil until the whole is melted. Lift the jar out and let the conante cool Rub a portion over the graft as advised above. If the wax should get too hard, soften it by making it warm, but be careful not to let it come into contact with fire, as it is very inflammable. It is a good plan to bind around the stock over the wax. This tends to keep the graft firm and the wax from cracking or separating from the wood.

Efforts are being made by the New Zealand Returned Soldfers' Association to have the scale of war pensions for injured men and the dependents of deceased soldiers increased. The matter was discussed at Saturday's meeting of the Dominion executive of the association, when figures showing how the cost of living is increasing were quoted in order to prove that an increase in the nensions scale was justified. The executive resolved to ask local associations throughout the Dominion to call meetings of soldiers and dependants of deceased men for the purpose of passing suitable supporting resolutions regarding the increase of pensions. It was also secided to direct the Dominion sub-commits to take the necessary steps to secure to every applicant for a pension the right to be represented by an advocate, both before the War Pensions Board, and before the Appeal Board to be set up.

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