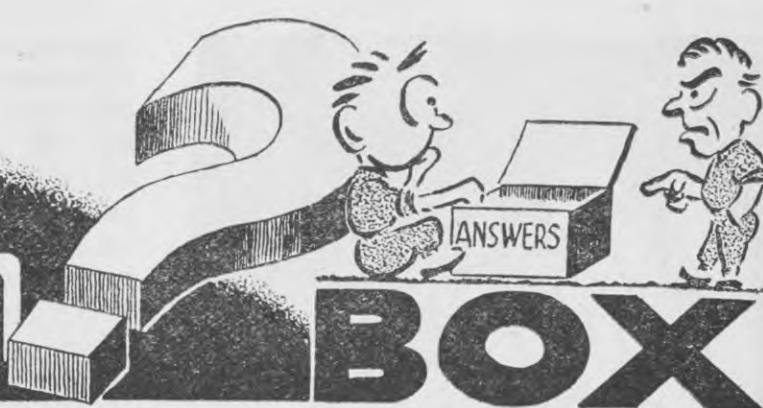


# The QUESTION BOX



*Question.*—I entered the army at 18 and when discharged I was paid a mufti allowance. Then I was called up again and came overseas. In the meanwhile I have grown a good deal and the clothes I bought when first discharged are unlikely to fit me. Do I qualify for a further L25?

*Answer.*—Unfortunately you don't. The principle has been laid down that only L25 will be paid in mufti allowance to any one soldier. If the mufti allowance paid to you the first time was less than L25 you could claim the balance but no more.

*Question.*—What is a War Veteran's Allowance and who qualifies for it?

*Answer.*—To qualify you must satisfy the War Pensions Board that you are unfit for permanent employment by reason of physical or mental infirmity and that you have resided in New Zealand continuously for five years prior to the application. In addition you must have served in a unit in actual engagement with the enemy. This unit need not be part of the New Zealand Forces as long as it was a British unit and the condition as to residence is fulfilled, and provided further that the applicant was domiciled in New Zealand at the beginning of the war. The term of five years is not broken by up to six months of occasional absence, e.g. a trip to Australia. The condition as to actual engagement does not apply to women, who need merely to have served overseas. The grant is entirely in the discretion of the War Pensions Board, subject to appeal to the Appeal Board, and may be increased on account of dependents.

*Question.*—Do I, as a Maori, have to use the special rehabilitation set-up arranged for Maoris?

*Answer.*—No. You can if you wish apply for any of the general benefits in exactly the same way as the pakeha. The Maori arrangements are additional and are purely to provide special facilities and to deal with the intricacies of Native Land tenure. But there is no compulsion in the matter unless you own a share in Native Land, when the matter must go through special channels.

*Question.*—While I've been away my father has been running my farm. He was retired and he's not up to the mark. He tells me the farm has gone back as he hasn't been able to get help, and also for lack of manure. Will the Rehabilitation Department help me to get the place back into good heart?

*Answer.*—Yes and no. The Department will make a loan for reconditioning your farm to cover deterioration which was the result of your absence abroad. You would need to prove, for instance, that the difference between your working capacity and that of your father was the reason for the damage. The shortage of fertiliser is one of the conditions of war and was as bad for all other farmers as for you. No loans will be made for this sort of deterioration, which would have occurred had you not joined the Army. Care has to be exercised in granting this type of loan as its terms are very generous. It is interest free and only repayable on the sale of the property.