

CHAPTER XXI.—POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION AND THE REHABILITATION OF EX-SERVICE PERSONNEL

CONSPECTUS

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As early as December, 1939, the Government set up a special Cabinet Committee on Demobilization and Re-establishment "to procure information respecting, and give full consideration to and report regarding, the problems which will arise from the demobilization and discharge from time to time of members of the Forces . . . and rehabilitation of such members into civil life". Thus, before the War was many months old, the economic problems associated with the waging of all-out warfare and the subsequent peace were anticipated so far as it was possible to foresee them. In February, 1941, the terms of reference of this Cabinet Committee were broadened to include all phases of reconstruction as they had been shown to be necessary with the development of the War. At still later dates the direction of all reconstruction studies was placed under the Prime Minister as President of the Privy Council.

The terms of reference of the several advisory committees, set up between 1940 and 1943 to study and report on particular phases of the problems involved, point to the interlocking nature of the subjects of demobilization and rehabilitation of the Armed Forces, demobilization of war industry, and economic post-war reconstruction generally. The problems connected with the rehabilitation of ex-service men are a part of the general question of post-war reconstruction for demobilization and rehabilitation plans alone do nothing to insure that there will be jobs awaiting the returned men on discharge. It is at this very point that post-war reconstruction ties in with rehabilitation plans.

For these reasons this chapter is planned to cover the whole subject but is separated into two distinct Parts: Part I is all-comprehensive, dealing with the entire field of post-war reconstruction including plans for demobilization and rehabilitation in their relationship to reconstruction generally and in so far as exploration and study have been undertaken by the Dominion and Provincial Governments. Part II is restricted to the nation-wide administrative machinery that the Dominion Government has set up over the period of the past few years and which is now functioning and dealing with all manner of problems concerned with veterans' affairs. In this