

individual veteran. In addition to this, it was realized that there must be a well prepared Government program of national reconstruction, especially for the purpose of providing employment during the period between the shutting down of war industry and the commencement of peace-time production. Accordingly, the Cabinet Committee appointed a second advisory body known as the Committee on Reconstruction (see p. 743). Under its direction very exhaustive and comprehensive studies have been conducted into the extent to which war industry may be adapted to peace-time.

With the beginning of discharges of armed personnel in the present war, civil re-establishment of these new veterans became a major part of the work of the Department of Pensions and National Health. Prior to that time the work of the Department, in so far as veterans were concerned, consisted largely of providing medical treatment, supervising payment of pensions and paying certain unemployment allowances to unemployed pensioners. With the growth of the rehabilitation work for the new veterans' machinery had to be set up to cope with the administration of this work (see pp. 741-742).

Many steps have been taken already so that the individual ex-serviceman will become re-established in civilian life without the necessity of a large program of building roads, schools and parks out of public funds. Laid down under three main headings, this post-war program provides:—

- (1) For the task of assisting the individual ex-serviceman in overcoming the handicaps accruing from physical disability and lost time.
- (2) For the task of re-organizing the nation's economy so as to provide opportunity.
- (3) For the organization of a program of social security against incidental unemployment, ill health and impoverished old age.

Steps by which these objectives will be accomplished consist of pensions for those disabled due to war service, vocational training, completion of education, medical treatment for those requiring it, assistance in establishing businesses through maintenance grants while awaiting returns from the business, allowances during the immediate post-war period, special rehabilitation grants, assistance in becoming established on the land, legislation enabling a return to pre-war positions, etc. Legislation already passed dealing with rehabilitation includes the Re-instatement in Civil Employment Act, 1942; the Post Discharge Re-establishment Order, P.C. 7633; the Veterans' Land Act, 1942; the Vocational Training Co-ordination Act and a number of amendments to Acts already on the statute books. Details of steps taken in relation to these various measures are given under the respective headings below.

**Welfare Assistance.**—In November of 1940, there was set up, under P.C. 6282, a Welfare Division of the Department of Pensions and National Health to be known as the Veterans' Welfare Division. The functions of this Division are to advise and assist former members of the Forces in matters pertaining to re-establishment in civil life. Work of the Division, where actual contact with ex-servicemen and women is concerned, is decentralized. In key centres throughout Canada, District Rehabilitation Boards have been set up. These Boards review applications for assistance and authorize benefits that apply. They follow up all cases where grants are made and where training is instituted. They co-operate also with treatment and pension officers.

The second decentralized method of assistance is that provided by the local Veterans' Welfare Officers, who also have been stationed in key centres of the Dominion so that they too may be easily available to veterans needing their services. These Welfare Officers are stationed in the offices of the National Selective Service,