

BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Appendix to Interim Report. Victoria, 1943.

Supplementary Report. Victoria, 1944.

Summary of Recommendations. Victoria, 1944.

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Report, British Columbia Rural Electrification Committee. King's Printer, Victoria, 1945.

Research News Letter. Research Information Service, British Columbia Industrial and Scientific Council, Vancouver (periodically).

PART II.—VETERANS AFFAIRS**Section 1.—The Work of the Department of Veterans Affairs**

The Department of Veterans Affairs was established in October, 1944, to deal exclusively with matters of interest to veterans. Formerly the work was divided among several Government Departments with the major share being handled by the Department of Pensions and National Health. Since its inception in 1928 this latter Department had dealt with matters concerning veterans. Until the beginning of the present war these matters consisted chiefly of pensions, treatment, and War Veterans Allowances. The basis of the earlier organization and the problems that were faced and met after the War of 1914-18 are dealt with at pp. 755-758 of the 1943-44 Year Book.

As the number of veterans of the present war and the legislation concerning them grew to greater proportions, the work of the Department of Pensions and National Health increased and became more varied and in November, 1940, a rehabilitation section was set up under the direction of an Associate Deputy Minister.

It soon became evident, however, that the work of re-establishing the veterans in civil life and, at the same time, guarding the national health, was too much for one Department. This led to the division of the former Department of Pensions and National Health into two new Departments—the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of National Health and Welfare. (See Chapter XXI.)

While the Department of Veterans Affairs deals exclusively with matters of interest to veterans, certain legislation concerning them is, of necessity, dealt with by other Departments. Part I of the War Service Grants Act relating to gratuities, for instance, is administered by the Paymaster-General of the appropriate Branch of the Department of National Defence. As the calculation of gratuities is based upon the length of service, it is logical that only that Department would have the records necessary to calculate such gratuities accurately.

Similarly, the Department of Veterans Affairs does not place veterans in employment, although it does find opportunities for the seriously disabled. The Department of Labour, charged with the administration of the Reinstatement in Civil Employment Act, has Employment and Selective Service Offices strategically located in every part of Canada. These offices co-operate closely with the Department of Veterans Affairs in placing veterans in employment.