

Subsection 3.—Other Rehabilitation Facilities

During the past year considerable reorganization has taken place in the Department of Veterans Affairs to permit greater flexibility in providing the ex-service man with rehabilitation facilities.

In addition to the Veterans Welfare Officer, who continues to function in Employment and Selective Service Offices at strategic points across Canada, there have been established in the Districts, Rehabilitation Centres wherein all rehabilitation services are gathered under the initial authority of the District Administrator who holds the Superintendent of Rehabilitation responsible for implementing the provisions of the Post-Discharge Re-establishment Order and the War Service Grants Act in so far as they pertain to the re-establishment credits. There is also collaboration with Pensions, Treatment, Veterans' Land Act and the facilities of the Department of Labour. A comprehensive counselling service given by highly trained personnel is available at Rehabilitation Centres to advise and assist discharges in drawing up and implementing a personalized re-establishment program.

In addition to these facilities for the fit dischargee, a Casualty Rehabilitation Section has been formed to operate primarily in hospitals of the Department and to "formulate plans to ensure that no disabled veteran suffers any preventable economic disadvantage" There are a few services that cannot be carried out by one government alone, or by one Department alone, and in order that all services should be welded together so as to result in efficient rehabilitation programs for each disabled veteran, the Casualty Section is procuring and training a number of Casualty Rehabilitation Officers whose duties will be to supervise and assist with the rehabilitation of not more than fifty disabled veterans at any one time in all phases of rehabilitation. The active rehabilitation process of a disabled veteran starts when he is received into a Veterans Affairs hospital and is not completed until he is placed in suitable employment.

Most important among the functions of the Casualty Rehabilitation Officers are: to assist in the selection of suitable job objectives; and by counsel and advisement, and with the co-operation of the Employment Service, to ensure placement in suitable employment. Each such officer is required to establish the best personal and professional co-operation with all other agencies concerned.

Working closely with the facilities for both the fit and the unfit are the volunteer citizens' committees operating in about 400 centres in Canada, and this assistance is augmented by aids from organized social agencies such as service clubs, welfare agencies, etc.

The employment of dischargees, with the exception of the seriously disabled, is now handled entirely by Employment and Selective Service, and the Veterans' Welfare Officers collaborate and assist where possible.