

The Casualty Rehabilitation Section has maintained a continuous campaign directed towards public and employer relations. During the year, officers of the Section made addresses, showed educational films and displayed exhibits to 571 organizations such as Service Clubs, Foremen's Clubs, Personnel Managers' Associations and others. Informative booklets were prepared and distributed and press and radio publicity was sponsored.

The Department maintains close and valuable relations with Associations serving the disabled, such as the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, the War Amputations of Canada, the National Society for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and the Canadian Paraplegic Association.

The Casualty Rehabilitation Section registers for service only those veterans with serious disabilities. There were 27,531 such veterans registered with the Section on Mar. 31, 1947. Their primary disabilities were as shown in the following statement:

DISTRIBUTION OF DISABLED VETERANS ACCORDING TO PRIMARY DISABILITY
AND REHABILITATION STATUS

<i>Primary Disability</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Rehabilitation Status</i>	<i>No.</i>
Disabilities of the Muscular, Skeletal, and Peripheral Nervous Systems.....	9,649	Employed.....	11,665
Amputations.....	1,895	In hospital.....	5,440
Hearing Disabilities.....	369	Under service but not ready for employment.....	4,795
Seeing Disabilities.....	969	Training.....	872
Pulmonary Tuberculosis and other Respiratory Disabilities.....	7,511	Ready for employment but still unemployed.....	1,886
Cardio Vascular Disabilities.....	1,902	Registered but not under service.....	2,612
Organic Neurological Disabilities other than the Peripheral Nervous Systems...	845	Service contact lost.....	261
Psychiatric Disabilities.....	641		
Miscellaneous Disabilities.....	3,750		
TOTAL.....	27,531	TOTAL.....	27,531

A study of two of the main disability groups, that is amputees and paraplegics shows that at Mar. 31, 1947, there were 1,322 amputees employed and performing successfully a complete range of jobs from farmer to fisherman, lawyer to log scaler, tailor to tinsman, doctor to dock worker, accountant to artist. There were 62 in training, 114 in hospital, 199 under service but not yet ready for work, 131 ready for employment but still unemployed, and 67 on which contact had been lost. At Jan. 31, 1947, of the 488 paraplegics or near paraplegic-veterans whose legs are wholly or partially paralyzed—187 were employed, 160 were in hospital, 27 were in training, 72 were under service but were still unable to find suitable employment, and contact had been lost with 42.

Paraplegia is one of the most serious of all disabilities. Until relatively recently, paraplegics were considered to be permanent invalids, doomed to a bedfast existence. It must be emphasized that there is a great deal of work ahead in the rehabilitation of the disabled, and that much has yet to be learned. Nevertheless, the strides which have been made in the rehabilitation of paraplegics, through the combined efforts of medical, vocational and social sciences, and the attitude of the disabled themselves, and of the community, provides a most hopeful and encouraging pattern for the future welfare of all the disabled.