

Subsection 5.—Rehabilitation of Women

By December, 1946, all of the nearly 50,000 women members of the Canadian Armed Forces had been demobilized, with the exception of a few Nursing Sisters and Dietitians. During the First World War, only the Nursing Service was open to women, but the Second World War saw women serving in the Army, Navy and Air Force in almost every capacity.

As a natural sequence to the established ratio of one woman to every twenty men in the Armed Forces, vacancies were designated on the Staff of the Rehabilitation Branch of the Department of Veterans Affairs for women executives and counsellors. In December, 1944, a woman was appointed as Executive Assistant to the Director General of Rehabilitation to render general administrative assistance and advise on the rehabilitation of women. In July, 1945, a Superintendent of Women's Rehabilitation was appointed, whose duties included supervision of Field Staff and a direct responsibility to the Director General on matters of policy. Between April, 1945, and December, 1946, 21 counsellors and 19 interviewers were appointed.

Training for ex-service women under the auspices of the Department of Veterans Affairs is on the same basis and at the same rates as for the male veterans. Up to the end of 1946, a total of 10,097 women veterans had availed themselves of opportunities for training, 20 p.c. of the total number of ex-service women. Of that number, 8,013 women had entered into some phase of vocational training, and 2,084 had chosen university courses or matriculation courses leading to university. Follow-up on these cases by district staffs indicates that little difficulty has been encountered to date with respect to employment on completion of vocational training. In most instances, through a three-way liaison, Department of Veterans Affairs-Canadian Vocational Training-National Employment Service, employment for individuals is arranged as the classes draw to a conclusion. Many have taken training-on-the-job in such diversified occupations as florist, fur finisher and cutter, photographer, etc. Altogether, women have trained for approximately 100 occupations.

At the end of December, 1946, 21,288 applications for re-establishment credit to the amount of approximately \$2,100,000 had been approved for ex-service women. As at the same date, 61 had qualified under the Veterans' Land Act, most of them established on small holdings, but a few owning and operating farms under the full-time farming arrangement.

Pensioners among the women up to December, 1946, numbered 489. They receive the same pension rates as the men and the same consideration in the matter of training and employment. Liaison between the Women's Section of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Casualty Rehabilitation Section has resulted in hospital visiting for the purpose of counselling toward employment or training upon discharge from the hospital, or arranging for correspondence courses during hospitalization.

During their service careers, many women formed new concepts of the opportunities for employment available in civilian life. For the first time, in many cases, these women could *choose* a career. With the co-operation of the National Employment Service, veterans who wish it are assisted in obtaining employment in keeping with their experience and academic background. It is sometimes necessary for the counsellor to re-counsel the woman more than once before she is successfully established in permanent employment. Each time an application for Out-of-Work Allowances is received, personal follow-up is carried out in the hope that the applicant