

can be trained for, or re-counselled into suitable alternative employment. At the end of 1946, recorded placements of women veterans through National Employment Service numbered approximately 12,000.

Citizens Committees and Women's Clubs and organizations have been invaluable in helping the ex-service woman become integrated back into community life. Full co-operation with Department of Veterans Affairs has been given, particularly in the matter of finding accommodation for the women who have moved to other centres to take training or employment. Clubs in many communities have given their support in personally contacting the veteran on her return home, and have been instrumental in helping her face real or potential problems.

Subsection 6.—Rehabilitation of Older Veterans

Early in 1946, the Department of Veterans Affairs added to its establishment a special adviser to the Deputy Minister, concerning veterans of both World Wars. The responsibilities of this official included developing and conducting a program of planned rehabilitation assistance to approximately 50,000 veterans of the First World War who also served in the Second World War, and the ever increasing number of veterans of the First World War who had acquired age but not security. Many of these latter had made a contribution in war industry but were handicapped on account of their age and other factors.

The main problem facing these older veterans was employment; the average of their educational standard was low and they were too old to take advantage of the training provisions under the Canadian Rehabilitation Program. Many of them were able to perform only work not requiring great skill or undue physical endeavour. The first step was to carefully screen and classify their abilities and characteristics with a view to finding the right kind of gainful employment for each one. The National Employment Service assisted in this.

The Department recognized that the Corps of Commissionaires was a ready-made, volunteer, non-profit organization already devoted, on a limited scale, to employment of uniformed older veterans, and obtained the co-operation of this organization to expand and provide employment for as many additional veterans as possible. During 1946, the Government led the way by authorizing Departments to contract with the Corps of Commissionaires for the provision of guards, messengers, etc., not within the provisions of the Civil Service Commission. Crown Companies followed this lead with successful results and considerable progress was made with private businesses towards the same end.

In addition, the National Employment Service, assisted by officials of the Department of Veterans Affairs and Citizens' Rehabilitation Committees, developed a steady pressure on employers to accept older veterans for jobs they could do. The considerable success, achieved in this endeavour is indicated by the fact that at Mar. 31, 1946, there were 12,392 older veterans registered as unemployed. Subsequently an additional 5,000 were discharged from the Armed Services and registered with the National Employment Service. At the end of December, 1946, only 8,081 of the total 17,392 registered remained unplaced, showing a reduction of 9,391 during the nine months.