

Many of these older veterans are eligible for assistance under the War Veterans' Allowance Act, or post-discharge unemployment benefits, but the establishment of this Branch of the Department was predicated on the belief that it is desirable, both from the standpoint of the nation and the individual, to employ these men in positions for which they are suited rather than to support them on allowances.

### **Subsection 7.—Assistance in Social Problems**

The Social Service Division of the Department of Veterans Affairs was organized in order to assist the Department with social problems. Its purpose is to co-ordinate the social service activities of the Department and to work in close co-operation with local social agencies, community chests and councils, municipal, provincial and federal social service departments, as well as with schools of social work, in order to provide the best possible social service to veterans. A basic assumption is that the Department must not establish any service for veterans which is already available to the veteran as a member of the community in which he lives. The Department will direct its efforts toward making available to the veteran services that already exist and helping him to use them intelligently. Where such services are not already in existence, the Division will encourage their development to serve the whole community rather than the veteran alone. It is hoped, in this way, to enable the veteran to think of himself as a civilian and as a member of the community in which he lives rather than someone set apart from the rest of the community because of his war service.

The Division has social workers in ten Districts and plans to have a service operating in most of the other Districts almost immediately. One of the tasks of the social workers is to get the full weight of the community social agencies behind the D. V. A. Rehabilitation program. Another is to assist in the co-ordination of investigations and to make more use of existing community services for this purpose, and a third task is to develop a medical social work program in departmental hospitals and clinics.

In most Districts the program is in its first stage of development. It is planned to develop the program on a professional basis by using trained social workers in all social work positions.

### **Section 6.—Veterans Insurance**

The Veterans Insurance Act which came into force on Feb. 20, 1945 provides that a veteran who was engaged in service during the Second World War, or the widow or widower of a veteran, or a pensioner under the Pension Act in receipt of a pension relating to the War, may contract with the Government of Canada for life insurance. Eligibility was extended by Order in Council P.C. 467 of Feb. 7, 1947, to members of the Permanent Force and Interim Force. The period of eligibility ends three years after the coming into force of the Act or three years after discharge from Service, whichever is later. For the Permanent Force and Interim Force, generally, it will end on Mar. 31, 1949.

The amount of insurance may be any multiple of \$500 up to a maximum of \$10,000. The plans of insurance available are 10 Payment Life, 15 Payment Life, 20 Payment Life, and Life with premiums payable until age 65 or age 85. The policies are non-participating.