

Constant studies are maintained of employers' objections to hiring older workers, the effect on pension retirement plans, group insurance, industrial accident figures, and productivity records, etc. Efforts are made through mailings, press, radio, public addresses, etc., to offset these objections and employers are responding well to the proved values of the stable older worker in industry.

Progress has been made too, through such agencies as the Civil Service Commission, and the Corps of Commissionaires in the allocation of non-career work not requiring skill or physical endeavour.

The screening process finds those veterans unable or only partially able to perform gainful work. These veterans are referred to the War Veterans Allowance Board or other agencies.

On Apr. 1, 1947, 9,262 older veterans were registered for employment at National Employment Service Offices. During the following 12 months, there were 46,329 additional applications and 46,690 veterans were assisted into employment or other means of maintenance.

Subsection 7.—Assistance in Social Problems

The social adjustment of individual veterans is of real concern to both the Treatment and Rehabilitation Branches of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the highest degree of skill in dealing with individual social problems is desirable on the part of all personnel in the Department.

The Social Service Division consists of trained social workers whose purpose is to increase the social work knowledge and understanding of members of the Department who see the veteran at first hand. It is also the function of the Division to see that existing social services are utilized to the maximum in dealing with problems presented by the veteran who comes to the Department for assistance. It is a basic assumption that the Department must not establish any social service for the veteran which is already available to him as a member of the community in which he lives. In order to prevent such duplication of service, it is necessary for the Social Service Division to work in close co-operation with local social agencies, community chests and councils, municipal, provincial and federal welfare departments, as well as schools of social work.

Section 6.—Veterans Insurance

The Veterans Insurance Act which came into force on Feb. 20, 1945, provides that veterans who were engaged in service during the Second World War, the widows and widowers of veterans, disability pensioners under the Pension Act in receipt of pensions relating to the War, most members of the Active Forces, and certain merchant seamen, may contract with the Government of Canada for life insurance, usually without medical examination. The period of eligibility ends six years after the coming into force of the Act or six years after discharge from Service, whichever is later. For the Active Forces generally it will end on Apr. 1, 1952, and for the eligible merchant seamen it will end on Feb. 20, 1951.