

Officials of the Veterans Welfare Services Branch also act as the veteran's friend in advising with regard to rights and privileges under regulations administered by other government departments—federal, provincial and municipal.

Subsection 1.—Employment and Allowances

Employment.—The return to civil life and gainful employment of veterans has been greatly assisted by the National Employment Service of the Department of Labour, which, through the policy of veterans' preference and by untiring effort, has kept the numbers of unemployed veterans at a minimum. Unemployment among veterans follows the normal seasonal trend and, during the fiscal year ended Mar. 31, 1949, an average of more than 10,300 placements per month were made by the National Employment Service for veterans of the Second World War. Peak and low unemployment figures for veterans of the Second World War in the fiscal year ended Mar. 31, 1949, were 44,811 and 12,344, respectively. Corresponding figures for the previous fiscal year were 45,833 and 17,749 and for 1946-47 they were 71,724 and 39,333, respectively.

Out-of-Work Allowances.—Since applications for out-of-work allowances must be made within a period of 18 months after discharge the numbers in receipt of the allowance are rapidly declining. At Mar. 31, 1949, only 190 veterans were in receipt of this allowance compared with 48,521 at the end of April, 1946. This allowance during the immediate post-discharge period served the purpose of providing assistance to veterans who were in the process of obtaining employment. During this period a total of 171,590 awards of the allowance were made.

Unemployment Insurance Contributions.—During the 1948-49 fiscal year contributions paid numbered 127,633 for an amount of \$13,039,615 as compared with 194,967 payments for \$20,029,198 in the previous fiscal year. From November, 1941, to Mar. 31, 1949, a total of 458,763 payments—including 16,177 payments on behalf of female veterans—have been made for contributions totalling \$43,349,821.

Temporary Incapacity Allowances.—During the 1948-49 fiscal year there were practically no activities under this allowance. Up to Mar. 31, 1949, 4,753 veterans had received assistance.

Awaiting>Returns Allowance.—This allowance was instrumental in assisting, up to Mar. 31, 1949, a total of 57,448 veterans, including 321 women veterans, who had attempted to take up an occupation on their own account as a means of rehabilitation.

As at Mar. 31, 1949, there were 737 veterans receiving the allowance and 1,854 were temporarily suspended pending final decision as to whether or not further payments should be made.

The occupational and geographical distribution of these veterans by district is shown in Table 4.

Of the veterans who discontinued receipt of the allowance, 90 p.c. were successfully established in the occupation of their choice.