

CHAPTER XXVIII.—VETERANS AFFAIRS*

CONSPECTUS

	PAGE		PAGE
SECTION 1. THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.....	1106	SECTION 3. POST-DISCHARGE TREATMENT AND FACILITIES.....	1108
SECTION 2. DISCHARGE GRATUITIES AND RE-ESTABLISHMENT CREDITS.....	1107	SECTION 4. REHABILITATION OF VETERANS	1110
		SECTION 5. WAR DISABILITY PENSIONS...	1117

NOTE.—*The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found facing p. 1 of this volume.*

The basis of administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, established in October, 1944, is dealt with in the 1946 edition of the Year Book at pp. 1053-1054. The work of the Department as it has developed year by year is outlined in subsequent editions and is brought up to Mar. 31, 1950, in the present volume.

Section 1.—The Department of Veterans Affairs

The work of the Department of Veterans Affairs during the fiscal year 1949-50 settled down into what will probably be a permanent pattern, with medical treatment, payment of pensions and allowances, welfare work, and land settlement its major functions.

During the year work under post-war rehabilitation legislation continued to diminish, university training being the most important continuing activity in this field. That decline was largely counterbalanced by activity in the welfare field, with a great deal of work being done for the older veterans and those with disabilities. Of major importance to veterans in these two classes was the provision in 1949 of an Assistance Fund under which veterans in receipt of War Veterans Allowance might have the allowance supplemented if actual need existed. During the year a widespread survey was made in this field to determine the need which resulted in an increase in the number of veterans receiving war disability pensions, and those under War Veterans Allowance. This provided an additional patient load in the 28 hospitals and treatment institutions maintained by the Department. Other institutions were held under contract where departmental facilities were not available.

During the year, interest in settlement under the Veterans' Land Act continued high, and assistance under the Act was given to veterans in the building of homes at prices they could afford. Classes in home construction were held across Canada under the auspices of the Veterans' Land Act with the result that many veterans did a great deal of the construction work themselves.

The Department maintains 18 District Offices and 2 Sub-District Offices in Canada together with a District Office at London, England. The administration of the Veterans' Land Act also requires the maintenance of District and Regional

* Material for this Chapter has been contributed by the various Branches of the Department of Veterans Affairs through E. B. Reid, Director of Public Relations of Veterans Affairs.