

Among the national agencies with which the Department is in continuous liaison in connection with casualty welfare are: the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans Association; the Canadian Legion, B.E.S.L.; the Canadian National Institute for the Blind; the Canadian Paraplegic Association; the Canadian Red Cross Society; the Canadian Tuberculosis Association; the National Society of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing; and War Amputations of Canada.

During the fiscal year ended Mar. 31, 1952, the total number of registrants increased by over 800 cases but the number of active cases decreased by approximately 1,125. Progress in the rehabilitation of the cases between Mar. 31, 1951, and Mar. 31, 1952, was as follows:—

<u>Status</u>	<u>Mar. 31, 1951</u>	<u>Mar. 31, 1952</u>
	No.	No.
Employed.....	28,850	29,991
Unemployed.....	862	786
Receiving treatment, training or other services.....	4,339	3,997
Rehabilitation not feasible.....	1,660	1,874
Unknown.....	191	140
TOTALS.....	<u>35,902</u>	<u>36,788</u>

Rehabilitation of Older Veterans.—The welfare of the older veteran has become firmly established as an important function of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Continuous educational work conducted in co-operation with the Department of Labour and national organizations has created a general awareness of the importance of maintaining the mature, middle-aged worker in gainful productive employment until he reaches an acknowledged retirement age.

The Department's responsibilities in this regard are not lessening with the advancing age of veterans of World War I. Many veterans of World War II have now reached mature age and thousands more will reach this state every succeeding year.

By enlisting support of veterans organizations and other groups, a national chain of voluntary committees has been developed, each accepting local responsibility in co-operation with the Department and the National Employment Service toward their own unemployed older veterans.

Assistance Fund.—Two welfare surveys conducted by the Welfare Services Branch of the Department in the autumn and winter of 1948-49 showed that approximately 21 p.c. of war veterans allowance recipients living in rural areas and 27 p.c. of those living in urban areas were unable to manage on the current allowance. The Assistance Fund was introduced to supplement the allowance in such cases.

District Assistance Fund Committees are established in each District Office of the Department. The District Committee has the responsibility of investigating and adjudicating on each application. Approved applications are paid from the District Treasury Office, thus making funds available to veterans in need as rapidly as possible.