

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, BESL; 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, 1953, the total number of registrants increased by almost 1,300 cases but the number of active cases decreased by 976. Progress in the rehabilitation of the cases between Mar. 31, 1952, and Mar. 31, 1953, was as follows:—

<u>Status</u>	<u>Mar. 31, 1952</u>	<u>Mar. 31, 1953</u>
	No.	No.
Employed.....	29,991	31,267
Unemployed.....	786	669
Receiving treatment, training or other services.....	3,037	2,887
Rehabilitation not feasible.....	1,874	2,088
Closed on WVA.....	1,100	1,174
TOTALS.....	<u>36,788</u>	<u>38,085</u>

Social Service.—The Social Service Division is staffed by professionally qualified social workers who act as consultants to Veterans Welfare Officers dealing with social problems of veterans and their dependants and handle the more complex problems directly. They also have special responsibility regarding staff training in social welfare principles and methods. The Division maintains close liaison with a wide variety of health and welfare agencies, both public and private, to ensure that veterans and their dependants obtain all possible assistance from the community, to which they may be entitled as citizens.

At the request of the Department of National Defence, the Department of Veterans Affairs inquires into home circumstances of members of the Armed Forces. These inquiries are designed to assist the Department of National Defence in making administrative decisions regarding applications for compassionate leave, posting and discharge, and to help the dependants by counselling and, where necessary, by referring them to community agencies. The Social Service Division maintains a full-time liaison office at National Defence Headquarters to facilitate this work. During the year ended Mar. 31, 1953, 3,700 such cases were referred to the Department of Veterans Affairs, an increase of almost one-quarter over the previous year.

Rehabilitation of Older Veterans.—Gainful employment of older veterans, is a continuing problem requiring special attention. Employers have responded admirably to the placement activities of the veteran sections of the National Employment Service, and of the "Older Veteran" Welfare Counsellors of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Out of a present population of 340,000 veterans of World War I whose average age is 61 years, the unplaced portion of those seeking employment throughout Canada is less than 6,000.

The Corps of Commissionaires is now firmly organized from Newfoundland to Vancouver Island. Employers are finding it a convenient and economical means of filling positions in which trustworthiness is of prime importance. About 6,000 older veterans, many over 70 years of age, are steadily employed through the Corps