

graduation for admission thereto. In addition to the allowance, tuition and other fees are payable under conditions respecting educational training that applied in the case of World War II veterans.

Rehabilitation Benefits for Members of the Special Force.—The Veterans Benefit Act, 1951, provides for the extension of rehabilitation benefits to ex-members of the Special Force. Persons who enlisted in the Special Force, served in a theatre of operations and were discharged on strength of the Special Force are eligible for benefits similar to those provided for veterans of World War II. This also applies to members of the reserve and regular forces who served with the Special Force in a theatre of operations subject to certain conditions and time limits respecting commencement and termination of the service performed with the Special Force.

The Veterans' Land Act.—The net number of accounts opened during the year ended Mar. 31, 1953, was 4,223, representing an increase in new settlement under this Act of 336 as compared with the previous fiscal year. Included in the new accounts were 21 opened for veterans of the Special Force.

The payment record of the veterans settled under the Act was further improved during 1952-53. Out of 47,451 World War II veterans with repayable contracts in effect at Mar. 31, 1953, only 0.3 p.c. of the small holders were in arrears of \$100 or more, and only 2.8 p.c. of the full-time farmers and commercial fishermen were in arrears in excess of \$200. Of the latter, the majority are settled in the Prairie Provinces and payment from them is anticipated as soon as circumstances permit them to deliver and market their 1952 harvest.

Lower prices for farm products, unaccompanied by a corresponding decrease in the price of the things farmers buy, forced VLA farmers and the Administration officials to extend and intensify the attention they have been giving to methods of reducing farm production costs. In their day-to-day contact with these veterans and through field days, demonstrations, evening meetings and the dissemination of sound agricultural information, the VLA supervisory staff have assisted them to maintain or increase their incomes in the face of the lower price trend.

Supervision activity in connection with small holders continued to stress the economic advantages of the kitchen garden and the opportunities for secondary incomes through well-chosen agricultural enterprises. The small holders were also encouraged and assisted to maintain the value of their properties through building maintenance and landscaping.

The good payment record of the veterans is undoubtedly due, in part, to the advisory and educational services rendered. In this connection, the Administration gratefully acknowledges the extensive assistance and co-operation received from departments of agriculture, experimental farms, schools and colleges, and from private organizations and associations, commercial companies and successful farmers.

Table 3 shows the number of veterans who qualified for settlement, the number for whom financial assistance was approved, and the amounts approved in the form of loans and grants from the inception of the Act to the end of March 1953.