

The Division has specific responsibilities in connection with the operation of the Assistance Fund, which is available to War Veterans Allowance recipients who are in need (*see below*) and, at the request of the Department of National Defence, furnishes reports on home circumstances of Armed Forces personnel who request compassionate leave, posting or discharge. The latter service provides information on which decisions may be based and may help those concerned through counselling and referral to community social services.

During the year ended Mar. 31, 1957, there were received 13,689 requests for services from all sources, a slight increase over the previous year.

Rehabilitation of Older Veterans.—During the two years ended Mar. 31, 1957, liaison was continued and extended with the Department of Labour, National Employment Service, Canadian Corps of Commissionaires, Canadian Legion and other public and private organizations through which older veterans and their dependants are assisted to find employment matched to their physical and mental abilities. Assistance was also provided to the Canadian Welfare Council, universities and other bodies in their efforts to study and publicize the problems and needs of those who, on account of age, often coupled with physical, mental or economic handicaps, need help in obtaining or retaining suitable employment.

The Welfare Services Division continued to review all rejected applications for War Veterans Allowance to ensure that any alternative services, for which the applicant may be eligible, are brought to the attention of the veteran or widow.

At Mar. 31, 1957, there were 10,589 World War I and dual-service veterans registered for employment with the National Employment Service, a decrease of 653 over the previous year. At the same date there were 4,869 veterans employed in the Corps of Commissionaires, 2,410 by the Federal Government and 2,459 with provincial and municipal government and private organizations.

Assistance Fund.—Supplementary financial assistance is provided by the Assistance Fund to recipients under the War Veterans Allowance Act (*see p. 304*) who are in need. Assistance may be given as a continuing monthly grant in accordance with a formula which includes costs of shelter, fuel, food, clothing, personal care and certain health needs, or in single grants to meet needs not covered by the formula. During the two years ended Mar. 31, 1957, the maximum assistance available from the Fund was \$120 and \$144 per annum respectively to single and married recipients of WVA. However, these amounts were increased to \$240 and \$180 per year respectively as a result of the increases in rates and ceilings of the WVA Act which became effective on July 1, 1957.

Field work for the fund is done almost entirely by the Welfare Services Branch which, through counselling and referral, also assists applicants in other ways. Since a monthly Assistance Fund grant can be continued without interruption until there is a change in the recipient's financial circumstances the number of people assisted in any fiscal year is greater than the number applying during that period. A statistical summary of Fund activity during the years ended Mar. 31, 1956 and 1957 is as follows:—

<i>Item</i>		<i>Mar. 31, 1956</i>	<i>Mar. 31, 1957</i>
Persons assisted.....	No.	6,256	8,331
Persons applying during year.....		3,847	4,765
Applicants assisted.....	"	3,074	4,273
Proportion of applicants assisted.....	p.c.	80	90
Fund expenditures during year.....	\$	509,624	741,895
Proportion of expenditures given in monthly grants.....	p.c.	78	78
Persons in receipt of continuing monthly grants.....	No.	4,058	5,949

Education and Training.—By the end of March 1957, very few veterans were still eligible for training under the Veterans Rehabilitation Act and the Veterans Benefit Act, 1954. Still eligible were a few with service in the Korean theatre who had not been released from the Armed Forces, and those seriously disabled veterans whose rehabilitation could be assisted by training or retraining.