

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, 1954, the total number of registrants increased by 1,502 cases but the number of active cases decreased by 562. Progress in the rehabilitation of the cases between Mar. 31, 1953 and Mar. 31, 1954, was as follows:—

<u>Status</u>	<u>Mar. 31, 1953</u>	<u>Mar. 31, 1954</u>
	No.	No.
Employed.....	31,267	31,607
Unemployed.....	669	912
Receiving treatment, training or other services.....	2,887	2,716
Rehabilitation not feasible.....	2,088	2,319
Closed on WVA.....	1,174	1,228
Left Canada.....	—	805
TOTALS.....	38,085	39,587

Social Service.—The Social Service Section 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 the responsibility of training staff in social welfare principles and methods. The Section maintains close liaison with a wide variety of health and welfare agencies, both public and private, to ensure that veterans and their dependants obtain from the community all possible assistance 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.

This Service was created to meet needs arising out of the expansion of the Armed Forces caused by the Korean situation, but the cessation of fighting there has not materially affected the demand. During the year ended Mar. 31, 1954, 3,561 cases were referred by the Department of National Defence, compared with 3,700 in the previous fiscal year.

Rehabilitation of Older Veterans.—Through its “Older Veterans” Welfare Adviser and Counsellors, the Department of Veterans Affairs continues to keep before employers of Canada the advantages offered in the employment of older veterans, with the result that, out of a present population of 340,000 veterans of World War I whose average age is nearly 65 years, fewer than 13,000 are registered with the National Employment Service as unemployed.

In these efforts the Department works in close co-operation with the employer associations and the Department of Labour; a number of plants have been surveyed for the purpose of assessing openings available to older age groups and other surveys are under way or projected. Active liaison is maintained with the Canadian