

During the year the number of registrants increased by 1,082 but, through the efforts of the casualty welfare officers, a larger number of cases were closed so that, on balance, the fiscal year ended with a smaller number of active cases, namely 5,675 against 6,100 as of Apr. 1, 1954. Progress in the rehabilitation of the cases between Mar. 31, 1954 and Mar. 31, 1955 was as follows:—

	<u>Status</u>	<u>Mar. 31, 1954</u>	<u>Mar. 31, 1955</u>
		No.	No.
Employed.....		31,607	32,461
Unemployed.....		912	1,079
Receiving treatment, training or other services.....		2,716	2,470
Rehabilitation not feasible.....		2,319	2,608
Closed on WVA.....		1,228	1,132
Left Canada.....		805	919
<b>TOTALS.....</b>		<u>39,587</u>	<u>40,669</u>

**Social Service.**—Within broad policy limits social workers have considerable freedom in applying their professional knowledge and skills to the work of the Welfare Services Branch. They give direct service in certain types of cases, act as consultants within their areas of competence to other staff dealing with welfare problems and assist in staff development programs concerned with welfare principles and methods.

In three districts where postgraduate schools of social work are located, Branch social workers participate in field work training of students. They maintain liaison with social agencies and welfare departments at different levels of government in the interests of veterans and their dependants. They are active in local welfare councils and similar organizations designed to co-ordinate and improve community welfare services. They also have special responsibilities in the operation of the War Veterans Allowances Assistance Fund and DVA services to the Department of National Defence.

Shortly after the outbreak of hostilities in Korea, DVA, at the request of National Defence, undertook to provide reports on home circumstances of serving personnel who request compassionate leave, posting or discharge. This involves interviewing wives, parents, etc., and frequently contact with doctors and others. Wherever possible dependants are counselled regarding available sources of help in the community and how to use such sources. During the year ended Mar. 31, 1955, 3,032 such requests were received, 529 fewer than during the previous fiscal year. This decrease is related to the withdrawal of Canadian Forces from Korea.

**Rehabilitation of Older Veterans.**—General welfare needs of older veterans are increasing in importance and volume, and sustained effort is required in helping them with their problems. Increasing numbers of World War I veterans are becoming wholly retired or in the "light employment only" class, entailing increasing calls on the Department's statutory provisions for assisted maintenance and co-ordinated search for suitable work. Their ranks are being swelled annually as World War II veterans pass middle age.

At Head Office and at each District Office specified welfare officers give particular attention to the older group and enlist the interest and co-operation of all available agencies. Disability pensioners, recipients of War Veterans Allowance and particularly those veterans who do not yet qualify for the Allowance, superannuated, retired, or partially retired veterans, all invariably require and receive welfare services as a general aid to their economic requirements or problems. Suitable employment within their capacity is paramount and that there has been no lessening of need in this field is borne out by Unemployment Insurance Commission reports of World War I and dual-service veterans registered for employment, viz., at Mar. 31, 1953, 10,744; at Mar. 31, 1954, 12,977; and at Mar. 31, 1955, 13,570.

To meet this need active participation is maintained with the Older Workers Committee of the Department of Labour, the Canadian Welfare Council Committee on the Aged, and the Unemployment Insurance Commission. Leadership is given in the holding of local boards to review the cases of registrants not gaining employment in a reasonable