

The Legion asserts that if private enterprise is to succeed in this country then there is a need to develop more employers, to find jobs for job seekers, and the development of small businesses is one way to accomplish this.

- (3) That the Industrial Development Bank Act be amended to provide such a service to veterans and that the necessary machinery be set up to provide the services referred to in recommendation (2).

The National Council of Veteran Associations in Canada is strongly impressed with the desirability of maintaining and encouraging the small business in the Dominion's economic scheme and takes the view that opportunity should be given veterans anxious to enter this field on a basis reasonably equivalent to those who avail themselves of the benefits of training or settlement under The Veterans' Land Act.

The brief of the Toronto Reconstruction Council finds that one-quarter of the Canadian urban population make their own living from their own businesses and, with the definition that a small-business establishment employ less than fifteen workers, there were 161,000 small businesses in Canada in 1941 representing 94 per cent of the total number of the manufacturing, wholesale and retail businesses. The brief visualizes the re-establishment of small enterprises as playing an important part in providing employment and contributing to the strength of the Canadian economic structure by means such as:—

- (1) Provision of immediate post-war employment of worthwhile proportions through absorbing manpower directly, and through demands for materials and products requiring the employment elsewhere of manpower for their creation;
- (2) Provision of permanent and continuous employment as distinct from temporary employment on Government projects;
- (3) Provision in many cases for employment of otherwise unemployables among partially disabled veterans.

The Toronto Reconstruction Council brief proposes that the Federal Government make provision for the establishment or re-establishment of veterans in small-business enterprises through a Veterans Small-businesses' Act by which the Government would provide a limited guarantee to encourage the lending of money by the commercial and banking institutions of Canada for such purposes. The brief recognizes the local bank manager and the credit managers of commercial companies as excellent judges of the need for an enterprise in their community and the qualities of the individual essential for success. The plan would provide:—

- (1) That any man or woman, an ex-member of the armed forces during the present conflict who has volunteered for active service, be eligible for benefits;
- (2) That any bank or other creditor may accept or refuse any loan or extension of credit to any such borrower;
- (3) That an investment must be made by the applicant of part of the capital required. Arrangements should be made for gratuity payments to be commuted for this purpose, if necessary;
- (4) That the government make a grant equal to the amount provided by the applicant on a low interest rate, long-term amortization basis;
- (5) That in case of default the government rank, with respect to their grant, as an ordinary creditor;
- (6) That a suitable maximum limit be set as to the amount that can be borrowed;