

mental standpoint and then we decide whether we consider that they should be taken in or that every attempt should be made to re-establish them in the community.

We have split them into four or five groups. The first group is a man who is physically and/or mentally capable of living outside and, if he has an opportunity, capable of doing some work; two, a man who is physically and/or mentally capable of living outside but is not capable of doing a job and when I say capable of employment, people capable of cooking their own meals; and three, the man who is capable of living outside under a certain amount of supervision but who should have all meals provided for him.

Now, I say "supervision." You would be surprised, or maybe you would not, about the number of men whom we find in our Class 6 institutions who were not there because they were unable to live outside but were there because of the fear that they had of taking ill in a shack or in a room and nobody finding them there. That was a very definite fear with a very definite number of these men. One man was in, I found out, for the very definite reason that out at the soldiers' plot he had a number of his old buddies and he was determined he was going to lie with them when his time came and he was sure that the safest way of getting put into that soldiers' plot was to be in a Department of Veterans Affairs institution at the time he died.

So part of this re-assessment was to get all the information we could get. We get all the information we could quite reasonably of the man's circumstances outside with regard to his family—and mind you, a tremendous number, 50 per cent almost of the men in Highcroft, have not a living relative within five hundred miles and they are rather a lonely group. Then we try and fit them back.

I am not going to bother you with figures, but up to a minimum—I forget how many months—but up to this time, say, six months of last year as compared with the same six months of the previous year, we have placed back in the community about 50 per cent more men than were placed back in that previous time. That is, we took in 50 per cent more as Class 6 patients than we are now doing and we are not taking in very many of the first three groups that are able to look after themselves outside if we can possibly place them in the community.

In order to do that, we must have cooperation in all parts of the Department of Veterans Affairs and we are getting that. Welfare in the hospital goes to welfare outside when a man goes back to his community. I went over to New Westminster just before I came away and I talked to the secretaries of the Legion branches on the lower mainland and I told them what we were doing and they said right away, "We wish you would tell us how we can help in this program, how we can help in the re-establishment of these men who went to you for one reason or another for Class 6 care, and you have decided that they can remain in the community." And we are going to make arrangements with every one of these men whom we return to the outside, right away we will notify the secretary of the Legion in the community in which he is residing and they will take him on as one of our special geriatric cases and not wait until the man comes with further difficulties, to look him up once in a while and to see that everything is going along all right.

We are also examining the war veterans' allowance applicants who are under sixty and who have some disability and we are trying to place them in the same way and see that they can get a job and get established so that they will not be dependent on the department as far as the war veterans' allowance is concerned.

I would point out to you gentlemen particularly with reference to the older aged group and the applicants for Class 6 who are really able to do some work that it is not easy for these men to find employment. Now, the