VETERANS AFFAIRS

At the end of the war the vocational training program was extended to another class than those who had been so disabled as to be unable to return to their former occupations. This additional class was the very large number of boys who had enlisted under the age of 18. In many cases the training offered to these youths was an academic year in an educational institution such as a university or professional school. For others, it took the form of business or trade training such as that already in effect in regard to the disabled.

Training allowances were established on approximately the same basis as treatment allowances, which in turn were based on military pay and allowances plus subsistence.

In the annual report of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment dated December, 1920, note is made that the number of those in receipt of training had declined during the preceding twelve months from more than 25,000 to approximately 4,700. Altogether up to that date the report shows that more than 50,000 had been given training under one or other of five classifications.

Corrective training	57
Trade and industrial training	
Business and commercial training	11,904
Agricultural training	2,558
Professional training	
Courses discontinued	8,981

50,521

Of the approximately 9,000 whose courses were discontinued 40 per cent were cancelled for misconduct, non-attendance or lack of interest, and 28 per cent voluntarily discontinued their courses to take positions—not necessarily the type of positions for which they were ostensibly being trained.

Notwithstanding the experimental character of the vocational training undertaken in the last war it is gratifying to find on a review of the records that no fewer than 64 per cent found employment in the occupations for which they were trained and 25 per cent otherwise.

Soldiers' Settlement

Another important measure adopted on behalf of veterans of the war of 1914-18 had to do with soldiers' settlement.

Land grants have been a traditional reward for demobilized armies from time immemorial, but in 1917 it was recognized that the mere grant of land was not sufficient to enable a man to establish himself in farming. Accordingly, parliament enacted the first Soldiers' Settlement Act in 1917. This act provided for loans not exceeding \$2,500 to be secured by first mortgages or prior charges on dominion crown land granted to the veteran.

But, in 1919, it was found that this legislation did not go far enough and by order in council on February 11, 1919, the Soldier Settlement Board was authorized to purchase farms and re-sell them to veterans for loans not exceeding \$4,500.

. The act also authorized additional loans not exceeding \$2,000 for stock and equipment and \$1,000 for permanent improvements. The sum which might be loaned to veterans on dominion lands was also increased to \$3,000. In 1919 the Soldier Settlement Act was revised by parliament to include the provisions of the orders in council which have just been mentioned. Thenceforward the 1919 act was the basic legislation for soldiers' settlement.

The history of this legislation is too well-known to need much amplification.