

FUTURE OF VETERANS' HOSPITALS

On March 16, following a statement in the House of Commons on the same subject, Mr. Roger Teillet, Minister of Veterans Affairs, discussed the future of DVA hospitals with representatives of national Canadian veterans' associations, who had been invited to meet with him in Ottawa for that purpose.

Represented at the meeting were the Royal Canadian Legion, the National Council of Veterans Associations - the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada, the War Amputations of Canada, the Canadian Corps Association, the Sir Arthur Pearson Association of War Blinded, the War Pensioners of Canada Inc., the Canadian Paraplegic Association and the Hong Kong Veterans Association - the Canadian Council of Veterans Association, the Dominion Civil Service War Veterans Association and the RCAF Association.

Mr. Teillet distributed to the group copies of his statement in the House and outlined the reasons, most of them relating to the problems of maintaining high medical standards in DVA hospitals, that had led the Government to consider inquiries from provincial and other authorities as to the possibility of incorporating the treatment of veterans into the treatment programmes for members of the general community.

A PROBLEM OF INTEGRATION

In the resulting discussion, the veterans showed that they appreciated the problems in DVA hospitals, but several expressed concern that veterans might lose benefits, either by changes in the legislation or through the application of agreements with the authorities assuming operational control of the DVA hospitals.

The Minister assured the group that ample priority accommodation would always be retained to meet the treatment responsibilities of the Department; that the operation of no hospital would be transferred to another authority until satisfactory arrangements had been made for veterans receiving domiciliary and chronic care; and that he would carefully review all implications of the proposals respecting any hospital to ensure that the rights of the veterans concerned were fully protected. He stressed, too, that satisfactory arrangements must also be made in each case for the continued employment of those serving in the institutions affected.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Prime Minister Pearson visited the group and, after meeting everyone present, assured them that the Government would continue to do whatever was best for Canadian veterans, and that he would always welcome suggestions from responsible veterans associations to that end.

COMMERCIAL FAILURES IN 1963

The number of business failures recorded under the provisions of the Bankruptcy and Winding Up Acts in 1963 was 3,678, an increase of 15.3 per cent from the 1962 total of 3,190. The estimated total of

liabilities was \$193,771,000, compared to \$149,440,000 in 1962.

The largest number of business failures occurred in the trade sector in 1963 at 1,635, compared to 1,496 in 1962. Liabilities rose from \$52,878,000 to \$61,081,000. In the manufacturing industry the number of failures increased from 326 to 365 and liabilities rose from \$28,974,000 to \$32,337,000.

The number of bankruptcies in the construction industry increased from 573 to 714 in 1963, while liabilities advanced from \$27,749,000 to \$40,137,000. In the financial sector, failures increased from 82 to 110 and liabilities from \$13,383,000 to \$25,869,000. Insolvent firms in the service industries increased from 477 to 577 and liabilities from \$16,503,000 to \$22,783,000.

PROVINCIAL BREAKDOWN

There were 1,987 bankruptcies in Quebec in 1963, compared to 1,694 for 1962. Estimated liabilities rose from \$77,002,000 to \$89,641,000. In Ontario business failures numbered 1,390, compared to 1,177 for 1962, and liabilities totalled \$55,946,000 against \$84,265,000. In the Prairie Provinces, the number of failures fell to 149 from 177, but liabilities increased from \$6,843,000 to \$8,321,000. Bankruptcies in British Columbia numbered 92 in 1963, compared to 109, and liabilities aggregated \$7,757,000, compared to \$7,083,000. There were 60 business failures in the Atlantic Provinces, with liabilities estimated at \$3,787,000 in 1963, compared to 33, with \$2,566,000 liabilities, in 1962.

RCAF BILINGUAL COURSE

The Royal Canadian Air Force recently announced the opening of a 20-week French-language programme for junior officers, at RCAF Station St. Jean near Montreal. The first course began March 16; it will be followed by five others during the next two years.

Instruction will take into account the varied background and language ability of the students by offering three levels of training - elementary, intermediate and advanced. Emphasis will be on conversational proficiency, with some study devoted to reading and writing, particularly in the advanced stage. The basic method used will be that of "Voix et Images de France", developed at St. Cloud, France; this will be complemented by a special programme devised at St. Jean to incorporate expressions and vocabulary peculiar to the Air Force.

PLACING GRADUATES

Graduates of the school will be employed at units requiring French-speaking personnel, for example, in Quebec, in the RCAF Air Division in Europe and on truce teams in the Congo and South Vietnam. In addition, some of the officers will serve at Air Force headquarters, recruiting units in French-speaking areas across Canada and at various training schools where French-Canadian recruits receive trade training.

The French-language school will provide a reserve of English-speaking personnel with proficiency in French who can then be employed in these areas along with their French-Canadian counterparts.