

CIVIL RE-ESTABLISHMENT IS PROVING HUGE TASK

Estimated Expenditure for Current Fiscal Year is Estimated at \$23,000,000. Over 14,000 Men have been placed in Civil Employment.

The Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, which, save in the administration of the soldier settlement scheme, is entrusted with the work of caring for the returned soldier from the time of his discharge until he is re-established in civilian life, is to-day one of the big spending departments of the Dominion Government. The organization that has been built up for the carrying out of the policy adopted for dealing with this problem is of a very extensive character. This is evident from the fact that the staff of the Department now numbers about 2,500. Nor has the full weight of the task yet been felt, for there are still about 40,000 wounded in Great Britain and France who have to be brought home, to say nothing of 100,000 other men.

Up to the end of the last financial year \$20,000,000 had been spent on the work done by the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment. For the current fiscal year the estimated expenditure is put at \$23,000,000. As there are still about 140,000 men who have to be brought home to Canada, it will be seen that the staff of the Department will be kept busy for a considerable time to come.

TWO CLASSES OF WORK.

Speaking in general terms, the work of the Department falls into two branches. One of these has to do with the care of invalided and disabled soldiers, while the other assumes responsibility for the returned men until they take their place again in the regular life of the community. Even when the invalided man is under the care of the Army Medical Corps, the S.C.R. Department provides treatment designed to hasten his recovery through teaching him how to perform light tasks that will take his mind off his ailment. If when he has been discharged from hospital his injuries are found to have incapacitated him for his old vocation, the Department offers him a course in vocational training, in order that he may be fitted for other work. If he is physically fit for ordinary duties, then the Department, through its agencies, will direct him to any place he may desire to go, tell him where he is most likely to get employment, and through its own and other sustaining agencies it will do all it can to help him get employment.

The work of the S.C.R. Department begins really at the dispersal station; but in order that it might be prepared for the work devolving upon it, as soon as the armistice was signed an official was sent overseas with a questionnaire that was circulated among the men, in which they were asked to state the community to which they desired to return, the kind of work they had done and what they would like to do.

The outstanding branches of the

Department are as follow: Medical services, orthopedic and surgical appliances and vocational training, and information and services.

MEDICAL SERVICES.

The medical services branch takes charge of the wounded men who may require lengthy or permanent treatment. In such cases its work begins when they have been discharged from the military hospitals. Up to the end of April 6,300 patients had passed through the thirty-nine institutions that are utilized by the Department. In the case of a soldier who has lost a limb, he is entitled to be fitted with an artificial one, and to have all necessary repairs made to it throughout his lifetime. So far, 2,697 artificial limbs and pegs, to say nothing of parts, boots, etc., have been supplied to returned men. In this connection it may be added that two Government factories, in which returned men fitted with artificial limbs are largely employed, are being operated.

Respecting vocational training, this branch of the work is divided into two classes: occupational therapy and industrial re-training. The former is a course of treatment of a utilitarian nature, the purpose of which is not so much to train the patient for an occupation as to promote his recovery by giving him something to occupy his mind. In this form of treatment Canada admittedly occupies first place among the nations. Reports up to the middle of April show that 1,546 patients had taken occupational therapy, while 1,242 had received curative ward training.

The purpose of the vocational training courses is to fit the disabled man for new duties in life. When he makes known his desire to take one of these courses his case is first passed upon by the Disabled Soldiers' Training Board. While taking his course the man draws pay and allowance for himself and dependents, if he has any. The courses are of a very thorough and varied nature, about 180 trades being taught. For this work the Board has at its disposal the plants of the various universities and a large number of other educational institutions, in addition to a number of plants belonging to industrial concerns. Up to April 18, 11,033 applications had been approved and the applicants put on vocational pay and allowances. At that time 333 cases had been approved during the previous week. By the middle of April, 3,160 men had graduated from the re-educational courses. The total number taking courses in industrial training at the foregoing date was 6,794. Up to the present approximately 50,000 applications have been passed upon, during some weeks there being as many as 720.

INFORMATION SERVICES.

The information services branch, which has to do chiefly with the men

who are able to resume the ordinary duties of life, begins its work at the dispersal stations. For the purpose of its work the Dominion is divided into eleven units, corresponding to the eleven military districts. A S.C.R. official is to be found at each dispersal station, ready to supply information to the men, and who, in turn, passes them on to the provincial Returned Soldiers' Commission in the province to which they desire to return. These commissions are sub-committees of the Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment in their respective territory. In providing work for returned men the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment works with the Labour Department. When a man desires employment he is directed to the nearest employment office in which a S.C.R. official is to be found, and whose business it is to do all he can to secure work for the applicant.

The report of the S.C.R. representatives of the various employment offices throughout the Dominion shows that up to April 19, 14,073 men had been placed since these officials began their operations. The returns by districts are as follow: Prince Edward Island, 21; Nova Scotia, 231; New Brunswick, 208; Quebec, 2,284; Ottawa, 271; Kingston, 393; New Ontario, 154; Thunder Bay, 249; Manitoba, 793; Saskatchewan, 663; British Columbia, 1,670; L and J districts (Toronto and Hamilton, Brantford and Niagara Falls), 4,115; Unit F (Montreal, Sherbrooke, Lachine, and Three Rivers), 1,089. Alberta leads with 74.6 per cent of placements of applications, Toronto, Hamilton, and Niagara being second with 71.7.

CONTRACTS AWARDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Alterations converting building at Kingston into Military Hospital to cost \$70,000---Large Halifax Contract.

ESQUIMALT'S ALTERATIONS

The Department of Public Works has awarded the following contracts under Orders in Council:—

Edmonton South, Alta.—Alterations and additions to Connaught Armouries, for their conversion into a temporary military hospital. Contractors, The Standard Heating and Plumbing Company, Ltd., of Edmonton, at \$9,000. Order in Council dated March 19, 1919.

Dredge "P.W.D. No. 5" (Northumberland).—Supply of 18 pontoon discharge pipes. Contractors, The Sydney Foundry and Machine Works, Ltd., of Sydney, C.B., at \$4,998. Order in Council dated March 19, 1919.

Kingston (Sydenham), Ont.—Alterations and additions to existing stone building for conversion of same into a military hospital (Pavilion "A"). Contractor, W. H. Harvey, of Kingston, at \$70,000. Order in Council dated March 19, 1919.

Halifax, N.S.—Military garage. Contractors, Russell & McAulay, of Halifax, at \$19,300. Order in Council dated January 9, 1919.

Halifax (Camp Hill), N.S.—Re Military hospital. Contract awarded to Rhodes-Curry Co., Ltd., of Amherst, as follows, for the sum of \$201,148.42: Administration building, laundry and

CONSUMPTION OF BREAD DECREASED IN JANUARY, 1919

Cost of Living Branch report to Minister of Labour also says average price was seven cents per pound.

COMPARISON OF COSTS

The Cost of Living Branch, Department of Labour, has submitted the following report to the Hon. Gideon D. Robertson, Minister of Labour, showing the production and cost of bread in the chief cities and districts of the Dominion, as recorded for the month of January, 1919:—

The consumption of bread in January decreased five per cent when compared with December. The average flour cost was eleven cents per barrel less.

The average yield of bread per barrel of flour is stationary at 266 pounds.

Owing to the lack of some reports from St. John, Quebec City, Hamilton, London, Edmonton, the tables of costs submitted are not as representative as the December statement, and this accounts for some of the differences in cost in their cities.

The average cost in any city or district is largely influenced by efficiency, yield, quality of bread, and local conditions of delivery; the latter showing a very wide variation according as the trade is centralized or, in the case of our Western cities, spread over large areas.

An analysis of the costs per pound, according to districts, shows fourteen have slight increases, nine have decreases, and three exhibit no change.

The average cost for the Dominion is practically seven cents per pound, with a slight increase of one-thirteenth part of a cent per pound over December figures.

Comparing the costs per barrel of flour manufactured, the figures are as follow:—

	Dec. 1918.	Jan. 1919.
Flour	\$11.09	\$10.98
Ingredients	1.34	1.44
Baking	1.69	1.72
Delivery	2.77	2.89
Management and fixed..	1.56	1.55
	\$18.45	\$18.58

stores building, vocational and gymnasium building, guard house, fencing, grading, drainage and fire mains. This replaces the contract awarded to the above firm, under Order in Council of November 6, 1918, for following works: Administration and surgical building, neurological ward, officers' ward, orthopedic active treatment wards (2).

New Massett, B.C.—Reconstruction of wharf, approach, landing float, and warehouse. Contractor, W. T. Muse, of Prince Rupert, at \$12,333.45. Order in Council dated March 17, 1919.

Vercheres, Que.—Reconstruction of wharf. Contractors, Napoléon Trudel, fils, and Jos. Trudel, of St. Irénée, P.Q., at \$9,408.50 (unit prices). Order in Council dated March 20, 1919.

Charlottetown, P.E.I.—Military hospital. Alterations to buildings, for vocational training of returned soldiers. Contractors, E. Parkman & Son, of Charlottetown, at \$4,125.28. Contract for heating and plumbing, re above buildings, awarded to Currie & Murnaghan, of Charlottetown, at \$1,060. Order in Council dated March 26, 1919.

Esquimalt, Victoria, B.C.—Military hospital.—Alterations and additions to existing buildings, forming two new active treatment pavilions with additional story to hydrotherapeutic building. Contractor, R. Moncrieff, of Vancouver, at \$125,984. Order in Council dated March 26, 1919.

The War Savings habit is both convenient and profitable.