

BULLETIN

MILITARY HOSPITALS COMMISSION

CANADA

PUBLISHED FOR THE INFORMATION OF ALL INTERESTED
IN THE WELFARE OF CANADA'S RETURNED SOLDIERS

November, 1917

An Historical Account of the Military Hospitals Commission

Early in 1915 when the returning stream of wounded and invalided soldiers began, the Department of Militia and Defence appointed a committee to prepare convalescent homes. As, however, that department was fully occupied in sending men overseas the government on June 30th., 1915, created a civilian commission, with Senator the Honourable Sir James Lougheed, P. C., K. C., as President, to care for the returning men.

On October 14th., 1915, a revised order-in-council was passed extending the benefit of treatment to men who had enlisted, but not proceeded overseas, and giving the Commission power to carry on vocational training, especially for the re-education of those who, because of their disabilities, could not follow their previous occupations, and to deal with employment.

A conference on the latter subject between the Commission and the Provincial Governments was called by the Prime Minister. A memorandum was adopted which led, immediately afterwards, to the appointment of commissions in each province, charged with the duty of bringing returned soldiers into contact with employers.

Vocational training begins

Rapid development in all branches of the work followed. In January, 1916, a Vocational

Secretary was named and Vocational Officers were appointed for each province to establish classes at the various homes. In June, 1916, a military command was created, into which all returned soldiers requiring further treatment are drafted. The headquarters are at the Commission's head office.



*Senator the Hon. Sir James Lougheed,
P.C., K.C., President of the Military
Hospitals Commission.*

A director appointed

Branch offices have been opened at Halifax, St. John, Fredericton, Quebec, Montreal, Kingston, Toronto, London, Winnipeg, Regina, Calgary, Vancouver and Victoria.

By December, 1916, the responsibilities of the Commission had grown to the extent that Mr. S. A. Armstrong, previously Assistant Provincial Secretary for Ontario, was appointed Director to administer and co-ordinate the organization.

Some of the numerous orders-in-council dealing with phases of the Commission's activity will be historic, notably that providing funds for the maintenance of men and their families while undergoing re-education after discharge. The view-point of the men themselves has been considered at all times.

Clearing depots operated

Since the formation of the Command the Commission has operated the Clearing Depots

(Continued on page Two)