

(2) "Will the present regulations protect a man who has returned from Overseas service, and has been discharged by the Military Authorities but has been placed on pay by the Military Hospitals Commission in order that he may receive special Vocational training, either along agricultural, or some other lines? This training is only to be given to men who are unable to follow their previous occupations because of their disability.

(3) "Has any regulation been passed under which a Homesteader who has been injured on active service or invalidated out of the service and who, through his disability, will be permanently prevented from fulfilling his homestead duties, can be excused from performing the remainder of these duties, and given a complete patent?"

The following reply has been received from the Assistant Secretary of the Department of the Interior:—

"I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter asking to be informed in the matter of the regulations framed to meet the case of settlers who, as a result of wounds received while on active service, are physically unable to fulfil the requirements of the Dominion Lands Act.

"In reply I beg to advise you that Section 22 of the Act provides for the protection of the entry of a settler on active service and for three months after his discharge, to permit him to resume residence. Moreover, the time spent on active service is counted to his credit as residence actually upon the homestead. In this manner, were a settler on active service for a sufficient length of time he would automatically complete his residence duties without having performed any actual residence on the land. Notwithstanding the foregoing, every settler on active service, is expected to complete (on his return, if the work was not done before he left) the requisite cultivation duties, or arrange with someone to undertake the work on his behalf during his absence on active service.

"The foregoing Section makes no provision for men who make homestead entry subsequent to the date of enlistment, and to meet such cases, an Order in Council has been passed authorizing the Department to protect the entries of all such for the duration of the War, or at least for the term of their military service. The time spent on active service, however, does not count as residence on the homestead, as in the case of men who made homestead entry before enlistment.

"Furthermore, in the event of the total disability of an entrant, by wounds received in action, or because of illness resulting therefrom, or from any other cause, after his enrolment as a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, Section 23 of the Act provides for the issue of Letters Patent in favour of the entrant forthwith, the performance of further settlement duties either as to residence, improvements or cultivation, being dispensed with. Evidence of disability must, however, be furnished, and it rests with the Department to determine whether or not such evidence is sufficient to establish a claim entitling the person concerned to a free patent.

"In the event of the death of an entrant on active service, the Department, on being furnished with a Certificate of Death by the Military Authorities, will issue a free patent either in the name of the deceased entrant, or in that of his personal representative. In the latter case, it would be necessary for the person in whose name Letters Patent were to issue to submit Letters of Administration, assuming the entrant died intestate.

"While the names of settler-soldiers remained on the rolls of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, their entries would be protected for the duration of the War and for three months thereafter, notwithstanding that they might return from overseas to recuperate from wounds received or from illness contracted while at the Front.

"In the case of discharged men, the Department has no authority to grant more than three months protection calculated from the date of discharge, but the question of extending the scope of the Regulations in the matter of protection in the case of disabled soldiers receiving special vocational training will be submitted to the Minister on a concrete case being brought to the attention of the Department."

DEATH OF Mr. F. W. AVERY.

It is very much to be regretted that it is necessary to report that Mr. F. W. Avery of Ottawa, a Member of the Commission passed away on May 11th, at the age of 63. Mr. Avery's interest in the welfare of returned soldiers was most marked. He not only attended the meetings of the Commission, but was constantly in session with the President and the Secretary. His long experience in public matters made his advice and counsel of great value. He will be very much missed by his fellow members on the Commission.

ADDITION TO PERSONNEL OF COMMISSION.

The following gentlemen have been placed on the Military Hospitals Commission by Order in Council:

- F. W. PETERS, Esq., Vancouver, B.C.
- FRANCIS J. SHEPHERD, Esq., M.D., Montreal, Que.
- ROBERT GILL, Esq., Ottawa.

Mr. Peters has rendered splendid service to returned Vancouver soldiers and, in his capacity as President of the Vancouver Club, has been largely instrumental in the establishment of a Returned Soldiers' Club in Vancouver.

Dr. Shepherd is known throughout Canada as a leading Medical Authority.

Mr. Gill has, for many years, been identified with the management of hospitals.

The Commission is very fortunate in having been able to secure the addition to its personnel of these three gentlemen.

CORRECTION.

In the last issue of the Bulletin the name of His Worship, R. D. Waugh, Mayor of Winnipeg, was omitted from the list of Members of the Manitoba Returned Soldiers' Commission. As the Mayor of Winnipeg has taken the keenest interest in the welfare of returned soldiers, he having been one of the principal founders of the Winnipeg Returned Soldiers' Association, the omission of his name from the list of Members of the Manitoba Commission is much to be regretted. There is no man in Western Canada who has proved himself a better friend to the Returned Soldiers, than Mayor Waugh.

TRAINING CLASSES IN CONVALESCENT HOSPITALS AND HOMES.

Report on Instruction, Quebec and Maritime Provinces.

During the month of April, general and technical classes were started for the soldiers in the convalescent homes in Sydney, N.S., Montreal, Que., and St. John, N.B. A class in woodworking had already been begun under the initiative of Mr. W. M. Dobell of the Hospitals Commission at the Savard Park Convalescent Home in Quebec City.

The general classes included penmanship, business English, practical arithmetic, English for French-speaking soldiers, mechanical drawing, woodworking and correspondence courses for a few special students in steam engineering and automobile engineering.

The Handicrafts Guild of Montreal is organizing a staff of voluntary teachers for soldiers who wish special instruction in technical subjects and craft work. This society is also undertaking to sell any work that the soldiers in Montreal may make. A group of women in Quebec city who are trying to establish toymaking as a home industry in Canada offered substantial prizes for the best toys originated and made by soldiers.

At St. John, the Women's Canadian Club has started to equip a woodworking shop in the Parks Military Convalescent Home and pledged its support for the education of the soldiers in the same way as did the Handicrafts Guild in Montreal.

REPORT OF INSTRUCTION, OGDEN MILITARY CONVALESCENT HOME, CALGARY.

Classes were begun on March 20, the first students being five men of foreign birth, and in a short time eighteen men were enrolled. The foreigners are taught English, including writing, spelling and dictation, and the first principles of arithmetic. The English speaking men study writing, arithmetic including rapid calculation; spelling and dictation, and book-keeping. The attempt is made to make every lesson as practical as possible, and to show actual applications, in daily life, of the subjects studied. The muscular or freehand style of writing is taught, as it is the method best suited to the use of adults, and even one-armed men have developed proficiency in this subject. Business problems are studied in the arithmetic class, and the work in book-keeping is supplemented by the study of office equipment. An adding machine has been loaned, and typewriters have been promised, by friends of the school.

REPORTS OF PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONS. Ontario.

Up to the present 37 Branches have been formed, and in 17 cases the local Branches of The Patriotic Fund have agreed to take on this additional work, for which they are so well qualified, on account of their close association with the work of taking care of the soldiers' families during the time the soldiers are overseas.

The effort, at present, is to secure at least one working branch in each County, if possible in the County Town.

Method that has been adopted for getting in touch with Returned Soldiers.—Immediately upon the receipt of information from Quebec giving the names and addresses of these men, a letter of welcome is dispatched to each, together with a form of reply in which the men are asked to report further details regarding capacity for work, also any troubles which they have had in connection with securing their back pay or pensions. On receipt of this form, completed, any complaint is at once forwarded to Ottawa, and if so desired positions are at once found for them.

Receptions to Returned Men.—In order to facilitate the work of the local committees in getting in touch with the men as they return, so that they may not fall into temptation, the Secretary has now arranged to be informed, as soon as possible, by telegraph, regarding the number of men leaving the Discharge Depot at Quebec, and the points for which they are destined. This information is at once reported to the towns where men are returning so that suitable receptions can be arranged.

Circular letters to Employers of the Province.—In order to "mobilize" the employers of the Province, circular letters and copies of Minutes of the Organization Meeting have been distributed to each Member of the Manufacturers' Association, together with the Mayors or Reeves of each Municipality, asking them for the names and addresses of former employees who have enlisted; whether they could take these men back at the close of the war, if fit for their old positions, and, if partially disabled, whether they could find employment for them, and, in a general way, if they were willing to offer a preference to returned soldiers.

The Manufacturers were also asked to report on any present vacancies in their establishments which might be filled by returned men.

Outside service.—In connection with the work of securing employment for returned men, the system adopted in Toronto, known as "Outside Service," is now in force.

Two returned soldiers have been engaged under Colonel Curran to act as Scouts, in order to visit the men whose names and addresses we have, find out their inclination and abilities, and direct them to establishments which offer positions. This system has proved very satisfactory because it has been found that, if the men were simply informed of vacancies open to them, they frequently neglected to present themselves as applicants and only rarely informed us they had taken the positions.

Work done.—The following is a statement of the disposition of men who have been dealt with by the Ontario Soldiers' Aid Commission, up to April 30:—

Men for whom positions have been obtained..	714
Men who have been sent to interview as to vacancies but who have not reported the result	15
Men on Military duty as guards, etc., estimated..	150
Men who have returned to old positions..	165
Number of positions vacant..	97
Number of men who have applied for employment for whom suitable positions have not yet been found..	16

Lantern slides.—Lantern slides have been placed in the leading theatres and picture houses in the City, and the increased number of positions now offered is, no doubt, a direct result of this form of bringing to the notice of the public the needs of returned soldiers.

Transportation.—In order to make it possible to move men to points where employment is offered it was agreed that the Chairman and Secretary should be authorized to advance transportation where necessary, and this has been done in several cases, with satisfactory results.

Quebec.

Report for the month of April, 1916:—

Number of applications..	56
Given open letters..	20
Given letters to individuals..	36
Open positions, about..	400

According to system in use it is considered that all applicants have been placed.