

*Vocational Rehabilitation*

Special arrangements which must be involved in case finding are sometimes feasible only during the summer months of the year. Suitable employment for those disabled persons who have been rehabilitated can only be found in the larger centres, with the result that those people have to seek employment opportunities away from home. But a more comprehensive rehabilitation program, improved communications, extended educational services, together with a general awareness of what the problem is, have all added to the greater efficiency of the service.

It is indeed rather difficult to single out any special service when one is talking about rehabilitation of disabled persons, but in my own home city of Corner Brook I would commend the fine work being done in rehabilitation by the West Coast Sanatorium, the institute for the blind and also the work being done by the new school for retarded children.

There is little need here to record the history of rehabilitation work done in the province of Newfoundland from the time of the organization of the sunshine camp association in 1937, the efforts at a training and rehabilitation program launched in 1944 by the Newfoundland tuberculosis association and the signing of the federal-provincial co-ordination agreement in 1954. Voluntary and private organizations, together with government at all levels, have provided the assistance so essential in any co-ordinated program.

I do not believe that any program of this nature can be really successful without the necessary research and research facilities which will provide the requisite and essential information. This resolution says that attempts will be made to provide research in the field of rehabilitation. I believe it is necessary, first of all, to decide how many people in Canada come within this class of persons. In 1951, when the population of Canada was about 14 millions there were something like 432,000 who were considered to be disabled persons. The other day my hon. friend from Burin-Burgeo gave figures which indicated that the number of disabled persons, not counting war veterans, would amount to about 2 per cent of the population. I do not think there is any reliable information today as to the actual number and type of disabled persons in the Canadian population. I think we need some research to determine how many there are. Next, we need some research to determine as accurately as possible what is the disability, what medical service may be necessary and what training would best suit those particular people. Having decided what training is best for them, then that training should be provided, while at the

same time provide special training for those who need special training because of their special disability.

It is necessary next to do some research work among those people who are employers and to get them to realize that sometimes disabled people have just as many abilities as those who are not disabled. There should be research to find out where there are opportunities for people who are trained and to see that society does provide an ample number of jobs and job openings for those who have been trained by these co-ordinated programs.

We sometimes wonder what is the value of rehabilitation. Sometimes it is very difficult to decide just what the value is. It is not easy to measure the human values that accrue to somebody who has been disabled, who has received the benefit of a rehabilitation program and is thereafter able to lead an active, useful and happy life. It is difficult to measure that, but there are other measurements which indicate the work that can be done.

I was interested in reading the report of the Department of Labour for the fiscal year 1959-60 and in noting the figures in the tables on page 64. Here, reference is made to a group of 1,462 persons of whom at the time those tables were compiled full details were available. Before rehabilitation there were 39 of this group of 1,462 in the professional and managerial category. After rehabilitation there were 123. Before taking this training there were 422 in sales and service. After rehabilitation there were 717. Before taking this training there were 718 unskilled and without work. After the courses were completed, there were only 173 out of a total of 1,462.

One might go on and use tables which are given in this report to show the increased amounts of money which were earned by those who had been able to take advantage of the services offered under this rehabilitation program. There is no need to do that because I think it is evident to all that those who can take advantage of these rehabilitation services do benefit greatly from them. I would hope that whatever is done under our present scheme, whether we think of it in terms of the resolution now before us or the agreements that have been in effect with the provinces since 1953, there will be some co-ordination between the work done under this legislation and the work done under vocational training.

I believe that where possible disabled people should be trained in schools that provide training for those who are not disabled. I say that for two reasons. I believe that where it is possible to do so disabled people