

APPENDIX No. 4

Recommendations.—1. The first suggestion, if carried out, will involve a reversal of the policy which has been followed by the Government for the past four years, a policy which has been much commended by other countries and which recently has been followed by the Government of Australia. Your Committee is of the opinion that a standard limb manufactured by the Government with interchangeable parts, renewable and repairable at various points in Canada, is preferable to a limb purchased from a local firm for various reasons. One of these is that a private dealer is not able to secure the use of patents which may be taken out by a rival firm whereas the Government has free access to all patents. Further, each private firm could not open fitting and repair depots all over the country. It is, therefore, deemed to be very greatly in the interest of the man suffering an amputation that the Government should continue to manufacture and furnish the artificial appliances he may require.

2. Your Committee is informed that while the Information and Service Branch of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment is undergoing demobilization, provision is being made for the continuation, in a somewhat modified form, of the Handicap Employment Section under the Vocational Branch of this Department.

3. Your Committee is not able to recommend that the Government should create another special fund as indicated in the third suggestion above.

4. Owing to the increase in pensions and helpless allowance, both of which will ensure to the benefit of the blind, your Committee makes no recommendation on this suggestion.

IX.—PROBLEM CASES.

On the 21st November, 1919, the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, under authority of Order in Council, P.C. 2328, commenced a Dominion-wide investigation of all sub-normal C.E.F. men who could not be completely taken care of under existing regulations, with a view to complete or partial re-establishment of all possible cases and permanent care of the residue.

Up to the present

440 cases have been examined.

191 have received benefits—89 of whom have been struck off strength.

Some through treatment have become re-established and are now in permanent employment, while others have been placed in institutions for treatment, such as—(1) Homes for Incurables; (2) Psychopathic Centres. Others do not require treatment but are in need of care. 102 are still on the strength.

The cases coming under this investigation have been grouped under three classes—

- (1) Early senility
(premature old age);
- (2) Somatic conditions
(injury and disease other than mental);
- (3) Nervous and mental conditions.

The senile cases are suffering from symptoms of early breakdown. This condition may or may not have been aggravated by military service.

Somatic cases are the result of wounds and a variety of diseases superimposed by functional neuroses.

The nervous and mental cases constitute—

- (a) Mental defectives,
- (b) Epileptics, and
- (c) Organic diseases of the nervous system,
- (d) Mental diseases.