

theatre of actual war, but this part of the report was not adopted by the government of the day.

The Hyndman Commission also recommended the setting up of another the commission composed of three members, and a parliamentary committee which sat in 1936 hearing representations from all parts of the dominion recommended the adoption of this part of the report. As a result parliament enacted the Veterans' Assistance Commission Act of 1936. Three commissioners were appointed and were attached to the Department of Pensions and National Health for approximately two years. Public sittings were held throughout the country and exhaustive enquiries were made among veterans and among employers. One of the results of this commission's work was the establishment of honorary local committees to aid the commission in carrying out employment and training projects.

The following schemes were adopted—

The corps of commissionaires, which already existed in one or two localities, was established on a national basis with branches in all principal cities.

Veterans' industries, workshops, and projects were established in ten centres.

Probational training was provided in cases where employers were prepared to give permanent employment as a result of such training.

Grants of \$50 for tools and equipment, and free transportation up to \$10 on a repayment basis were authorized when such assistance would enable a veteran to procure employment.

The commission found at this time that there were 34,312 veterans unemployed, of whom 4,690 were regarded as unfit. Through the assistance of the honorary committees permanent placements were effected for 10,572 and casual placements were made to the number of 37,831. Under the probational training scheme 1,177 courses of training were commenced, of which 978 were completed.

Grants for these projects were discontinued in 1941, by which time employment conditions had greatly improved.

PROGRESS IN THE PAST SIX YEARS

I have spent some time reviewing the legislation and the administrative measures adopted for the care of veterans of the war of 1914-18 because it is upon that foundation that the structure of veterans' legislation for those who have served in the recent war has been erected.

In some cases, such as the Pension Act, we have merely made the old legislation, with appropriate modifications, adaptable to those who have served in the new war. In other cases, such as land settlement, we have enacted new legislation. In the matter of training we have broadened our program far beyond the conceptions of those who pioneered in this field in 1916 and 1917.

In other fields, such as re-establishment credit, we have introduced entirely new methods of rehabilitation.

Unlike 1914, we entered this war with a Pension Act which as a result of constant study by parliamentary committees represented the steady progress of public opinion on this subject right up to the moment of the outbreak of war.

Unlike 1914, we entered the present war with a civilian department, trained and experienced in the administration of veterans' affairs.

Unlike 1914, we entered the present war with a chain of hospitals and a medical organization ready for the care and accommodation of casualties.

Our problem was not one of creating something out of nothing but of expanding and improving existing services and existing legislation.