

decisions based on the merits of each proposition submitted. Applications which involve unusual features, such as doubtful economic farming propositions requiring specialized knowledge, often necessitate detailed investigation and consultation with the local Committees appointed for the purpose. In general, however, the work has been handled smoothly and expeditiously. A steady flow of rehabilitation loan applications is being experienced at all Branches of the Corporation. Full co-operation has been forthcoming, as in the past, from the various Departments and Committees associated in this work, and it is pleasing to note that the large majority of men assisted have taken full advantage of the help given to them, and in these cases the purpose of rehabilitation can be said to have been achieved. It is, of course, inevitable that in a scheme of such magnitude a certain number will be unsuccessful, but the percentage of failures has so far been low. This is illustrated by the table given later. The losses have in the main resulted from failures in businesses established with rehabilitation loans, and have mostly arisen as a result of the ex-serviceman being insufficiently experienced in the line of business he elected to follow, or of his being temperamentally unsuited to business management. Many of them, whilst good workers and tradesmen, revealed lack of training and experience to the degree required to ensure their success as businessmen on their own account. The Corporation has continued to help and advise, and has not hesitated to seek the assistance, and gladly acknowledges the help, of experienced men in the commercial field.

As in past reports, a list is submitted hereunder illustrating in a condensed form the various types of business for which rehabilitation loans have been authorized. It does not purport to be a complete classification, and we are satisfied that a full survey would show that more than 250 different types of business have already been handled. It is interesting to note, however, that the various types of transport still appear to have a strong attraction.

Classification of Business Loan Authorizations

	Number.	Total.		Number.	Total.
		£			£
Butchery	188	154,427	Taxi, service car, and transport	1,652	905,135
Grocery and general store	616	511,484	Carrier and mail contractor ..	1,249	925,062
Bakery, dairy, refreshment-rooms	401	276,823	Hairdresser and tobacconist ..	112	55,940
Milk-round	272	216,430	Bootmaker	149	46,222
Building trades	697	357,963	Painter and paperhanger ..	235	89,584
Mechanical repairs	418	275,542	Launch and fishing gear ..	111	73,232
Manufacturing businesses	291	192,283	Agricultural contractors ..	428	309,641
Stationery and fancy goods	114	83,564	Chemist	28	28,230
Poultry, &c.	42	26,713	Miscellaneous	674	461,169
Professional equipment	809	369,066			
Radio dealers and electricians	202	109,628			
Hotel and guest-house	39	35,658			
			Total to 31st March, 1950	8,727	£5,493,961

The great majority of rehabilitation borrowers are meeting their obligations satisfactorily, but the Board feels it incumbent upon it to again draw attention to the high percentage of furniture and tools of trade accounts in arrear. Every effort is made to bring these accounts up to date, but the fact that these loans are interest free seems to be considered sufficient reason for non-payment. Had they carried an interest charge, to be waived only upon prompt payment of instalments as they fell due, a better record would have been disclosed. The Board finds it very difficult to believe that these arrears are justified in a time of full employment. The work involved in communicating with defaulting borrowers and in subsequent interviews is uneconomic and takes up the time of officers who could well be engaged on more productive work.