

# A Farmer's Life For You?

FARM TRAINING and FARM SETTLEMENT are covered in this article, the second in the series on trades and professions in New Zealand. Accompanying this article are figures giving a summary of rehabilitation results up to October 31, 1944.

With the experience gained in settling the 1914-1918 soldier on the land a valuable guide is given to the policy to be adopted in the settlement of ex-servicemen from the present war.

The present policy for settlement is based on three main considerations:— (1) the prospective settler must be competent to farm on his own account; (2) the land must be purchased on the basis of productive value and not at inflationary prices; and (3) only the best possible land must be used for soldier settlement.

On this basis ex-servicemen may be settled on two types of property when they have established their ability to farm:—(a) freehold; (b) leasehold.

Land settlement policy is decided on the recommendation of the Farms Committee of the Rehabilitation Board but it is most important to remember that there are nearly 60 local farming sub-committees co-operating with district Rehabilitation Committees in the consideration of applications and in making recommendations to the Executive Committee of the Board. The creation of these local committees has not taken away from the Rehabilitation Committee its function of recommending the degree of assistance which the ex-serviceman may be granted but has ensured that in the grading of applicants and the decision as to what further training, if any, may be required the specialised experience and knowledge of men intimately connected with the farming industry will be obtained.

Each applicant for assistance is referred by the District Rehabilitation Officer to the local Rehabilitation Committee which considers whether the circumstances of his case justify his establishment or re-establishment on his own account. Training facilities are not generally granted to men who are not also to be established on their own

farms, so that all applications are first considered from that angle. If the application is considered to have merit it is referred to the appropriate Farming Sub-Committee. Frequently for the convenience of applicants these two committees sit together. The sub-committee is made up of an experienced farmer, and representatives of the State Advances Corporation and the Lands and Survey Department. *It recommends the grading of the applicant: "A" "B" "C" or "D."*

These grading letters signify:— "A"—Fully experienced and qualified for immediate settlement. "B"—Partly experienced but in need of further training before settlement would be prudent. "C"—Inexperienced, but suitable for training with a view to ultimate settlement. "D"—Not suitable, for one or more reasons, for settlement.

When a definite application for training and/or settlement is received it is dealt with by the Farms Committee of the Board immediately. After determination of eligibility and grading, which is always related to districts and types of farming, the ex-serviceman is provided with a certificate, thus dispensing with the need for further interviewing if it is not required.

Men graded "A" require no further training but refresher courses may be arranged for them.

Men graded "B" or "C" must undergo prescribed training before they can be regarded as "A". It is the function of the local Farming Sub-Committee concerned, when considering the application, to recommend what further training ought to be undertaken before settlement.

Training measures include:— (a) subsidised training with approved farmer employers; (b) training on