



They are further useful in that they enable the Department to estimate approximately how much is going to be asked of it, and to make the necessary provision. For instance, if it finds that there are eight hundred men wanting to train as carpenters, it knows it had better get busy expanding its Training Centres. And so on in all spheres.

Much that is not clear will be made clear when the lectures, talks and interviews begin. But *now* is not too soon to start thinking constructively about your own future. If it is reasonably possible, decide what you are going to do, and then ask ERS how it can help. Remember that the Rehabilitation Section is always available to you personally. If you want to settle some doubtful point in your mind go and see them. Your Unit Rep. will tell you where they are to be found. Interviewing you is their business. Don't hesitate to keep them busy. ERS is offering you all possible facilities to get the information. Take advantage of them. Then instead of stepping off the ship with a hazy expectation that someone is going to offer you the earth, and suffering a nasty let-down at an early date, you will know what you can ask for, and when you are ready you will ask for it, and in all probability get it. But how you get it and where you apply for it is another story, and deserves brief mention. The full story is set out in "Serviceman to Civilian".

The political head of the Rehabilitation Scheme in New Zealand is the Minister for Rehabilitation, who is the Hon. C. F. Skinner, M.C., while the departmental head is the Director, Mr. F. Baker, D.S.O. Both are returned

soldiers of the present war. The Rehabilitation Department is the administrative centre of the scheme, but actually the soldier has little to do with it, and for a very good reason. To increase the speed with which applications can be handled and so save a delay which, especially in negotiations for properties and businesses, might well prove fatal, a very large measure of decentralisation has been achieved, and local committees handle all normal cases. Only where a policy decision is required or the case presents really difficult features is reference to Wellington necessary.

The local committee is, in the tradition of our local government, unpaid except for the Rehabilitation Officer, who acts as its link with the Department and as administrative officer. The other members are usually a local body member (councillor, etc.) an R.S.A. nominee, a Labour or Union member, local business man and/or farmer, a Women's War Service Auxiliary member and, *ex officio*, the local M.P. Some of the members are bound to be, and a majority are likely to be, returned servicemen of this or the last war, so that applicants are sure of a sympathetic hearing. There are well over a hundred of these committees now in operation so that no one will have far to go to be interviewed. Furthermore, the committees being so widespread, and their areas so small, their local knowledge is both accurate and useful.

The procedure for a returned serviceman is, then, as follows: when he returns home he will usually receive within two or three weeks a letter from his Rehabilitation Officer asking him to call and talk things over at his convenience. If this letter is not