

received within two or three weeks it is suggested that the Rehabilitation Officer should be contacted, as where so many thousands of cases are concerned some few files occasionally get mislaid for a while. It might be added that not every soldier gives the right address, and some have even been known to move without leaving a forwarding address. The Rehabilitation Officers do their best but few of them are psychic. "Serviceman to Civilian" tells where they may be found, or an inquiry at the R.S.A. will yield the information.

For anyone wanting loans or assistance an interview with the Rehabilitation Officer is an essential preliminary. He is almost sure to be a returned serviceman. He might be an old acquaintance. Either way he's there to help. And anyone who rushes off to an agent, buys a house or a farm or a business, and *then* goes to the Rehabilitation Officer to see if he can get a loan, has only himself to blame if the help is not forthcoming. For a large part of the job of the Rehabilitation Officer and of the local committee is to see that the serviceman doesn't get taken down. Between them they know most of the "dud" businesses offering, and most of the tricks of the shadier local agents. That means that a few optimists will get knocked back when they ask for loans for that "sure thing". It's all for their own good. It is better to be knocked back now by the Committee than later by the Bankruptcy Court.

There are various types of benefit available. For all of them a visit to the Rehabilitation Officer is a necessary first step. He will submit loan applications to the local Committees, who have the power to grant but not to refuse them. To grant a loan the Committee must be unanimous. If it is not, the application is sent on to the Department in Wellington which may

either grant or refuse the loan. For certain special purposes the Committee may be divided into sub-committees. Farm-grading, trade-training and similar matters are usually dealt with by a sub-committee which often co-opts some local expert to assist.

Where the serviceman has no job or dislikes his old job, but has no clear idea of what he wants, the Rehabilitation Officer will arrange a talk with the District Vocational Guidance Officer or the Honorary Educational Adviser, who may suggest some course of training under the educational benefits of the scheme.

Even those who have no need of help are asked at least to call or ring and let the Rehabilitation Officer know. He has a file for everyone and this helps him to keep the files complete. Otherwise he may have to spend precious time and trouble chasing up people who don't need help.

Finally, a word about the benefits under the Act. They are wide and various but they are not unlimited, because the resources of New Zealand are not unlimited. The primary aim of rehabilitation is to put each soldier in the position he would have been in had he not gone to war. More than that is not to be expected, even if more is sometimes given. Nor must it be forgotten that the rights given carry with them corresponding duties, a duty to play one's part in community life, and a duty not to try to take more out of the common stock than one can put in. If those duties are remembered they will make fitting back into civil life an easier and a smoother process.

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(Note.—An article on Maori Rehabilitation, which presents some variations from the normal procedure, will appear in Cue 32.)