to meet the requirements of applicants seeking loans within the normal lending limits, the main restriction operating against prospective borrowers at present being the continued shortage of labour and certain essential building-materials, and high costs. When these problems are solved there will undoubtedly be heavier calls on the Corporation's funds, especially for the erection of homes. The Corporation will continue to play its part in this sphere in the future as it has done in the past.

Rural Intermediate Credit (Stock) Loans

Although the Rural Intermediate Credit Amendment Act, 1946, amalgamated the system of short-term loans with the Corporation's other lending operations, it in no way lessened the availability of funds to those farmers who desire to borrow money in this way on the security of their stock and plant, and applications are still being received both through the various associations and by the Corporation direct. The demands for accommodation increased during the year, but are still not extensive, due no doubt to favourable seasons and prices resulting in most farmers being able to meet their requirements from revenue without recourse to capital borrowing.

Loans totalling 106 (as against 64 in the preceding year), involving £115,840, were granted on applications made direct to the Corporation, whilst 37 loans, amounting to £21,613, were made available to farmers on application through the associations. The comparative figures for the past two years and the total amounts outstanding under current loans are illustrated in the following tables:

Loans Granted by—	For Year Ended 31st March, 1948.		For Year Ended 31st March, 1949.	
	Number	Amount.	Number	Amount.
		£		£
Corporation direct	64	82,727	106	115,840
Corporation through Associations ..	30	21,392	34	21,613
Totals	94	104,119	140	137,453
Total Amounts Outstanding on Loans Current				
Corporation direct	216	132,752	279	175,152
Corporation through Associations ..	206	46,630	229	39,347
Totals	422	179,382	508	214,499

Rehabilitation Agency: General

The investigation of new applications for loans from ex-servicemen and the administration of loans already granted continues to form a large part of the Corporation's functions. The responsibility for making decisions on these applications rests with the Rehabilitation Loans Commitee, and, under delegation from that Committee, with the District Loans Committees functioning in the various districts. These Committees in turn depend upon the Corporation's staff to make the necessary investigations and reports, and generally to assemble and explain the data where necessary to enable decisions to be made. It is worthy of note that all the District Loans Committees have paid tribute to the work of the Corporation's staff, which they regard as particularly important to the consideration of loan applications.