

The chart below shows the number of men for whom training has been arranged each month and the total number of men in training.



White bar shows number commenced during month; black bar shows total number being trained.

SECTION III. —FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

Under the instructions issued in connection with the Repatriation Act, District Boards or Local Committees are empowered to grant financial assistance to discharged soldiers or soldiers' widows on the following terms:—

(a.) BUSINESS LOANS.—Loans not exceeding £300 to establish or purchase businesses may be made for a term of years with or without security. £50 is loaned free of interest, the remainder bearing interest at five per cent. per annum.

A great amount of work has been done by the various Boards and Committees in investigating applications under this heading. Each applicant is carefully examined, the suitability and prospects of the business are fully gone into, and the loan is not granted unless the Board is convinced that by approving it they are serving the soldier's best interests. The Department has laid it down as a guiding principle that except in exceptional circumstances loans are not to be granted to applicants (1) who are already in situations equal to their pre-war positions, (2) who are satisfactorily settled in business, or (3) who are in a position to finance themselves.

All loans exceeding £50 must be approved by the Ministerial Board, and up to the 20th August a total of 1,118 loans have been ratified, entailing an expenditure of £264,849.

The following list gives an idea of the remarkable diversity of businesses in which discharged soldiers have been assisted to make a start:—

Accountants	2	Concrete-construction	2
Auctioneers	9	Contractors	6
Bakers	10	Customhouse agents	2
Barristers and solicitors	11	Dairy business and milk-vendors	16
Bee-farming	15	Dentists	13
Booksellers and stationers	18	Doctors	3
Boardinghouse and private hotel keepers	9	Duck-farmer	1
Boot-importers	10	Dyers and cleaners	2
Boot-manufacturers	13	Engineering business	2
Boot-repairers	5	Engineering, electrical	9
Billiard-saloon keepers	5	Engineering, motor	10
Blacksmiths	26	Farming*	88
Builders	16	Farming machinery for contracts	21
Butchers	22	Fishing business	72
Buyer for island trades and merchants	1	Forwarding agents	12
Basketmakers	3	Fruit and confectionery business	41
Brick and tile making	3	Fruitgrowing	2
Cabinetmaking	33	Furniture-dealers	7
Carriers Horse	44	Iron-founder	1
Carriers Motor	103	Greengrocer	1
Chaff-cutting	7	Grocery and general store keeping	96
Chairmaking	1	Grain-merchants	4
Chemists	15	Hardware	3
Coachbuilding	1	Hat-manufacturer	1
Coach-painters	2	Heat appliances agent	1
Coal-merchants	19	Hawking business	1