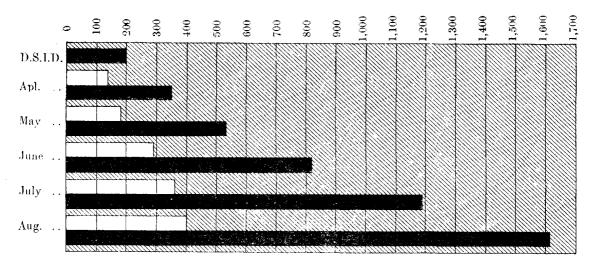
The chart below shows the number of men for whom training has been arranged each month and the total number of men in training.

7

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 1,178 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				$\bar{9}$	Contractors		• •	• •	$\tilde{6}$
Bakers				10	Customhouse agents				$\overset{\circ}{2}$
Barristers and solicito				11	Dairy business and mi				$1\overline{6}$
Bee-farming				15	IX it i			• •	13
Booksellers and statio				18	Doctors				3
Boardinghouse and pr		el keeper:	s	9	TN 1 e				ĩ
		'		10 .	11.5				2
Boot-manufacturers				13	Engineering business				2
Boot-repairers				5	Engineering, electrical				9
Billiard-saloon keepers	·			5	Engineering, motor				10
Blacksmiths				26					88
Builders				16	Farming machinery for	r contract	s		21
Butchers				22					72
Buyer for island trade	's and n	erchants	.,	1					12
				3	Fruit and confectioner	v business	\$. ,	41
Brick and tile making			•	$3 \mid$					2
				33	Furniture-dealers				7
Carriers Horse				4.4					1
Carriers Motor				103		• •			1
Chaff-cutting				7	Grocery and general st	ore keepir	ıg		96
Chairmaking				1				. ,	4
Chemists				15					3
Coachbuilding				1 '					1
Coach-painters				2	Heat appliances agent	٠			1
Coal-merchants	• •			19^{-1}	Hawking business				1