

In addition to this, honorary committees have been established at the following places throughout the country :—

Auckland.—Cambridge, Dargaville, Kaitaia, Opotiki, Paeroa, Taumarunui, Tauranga, Te Aroha, Te Awamutu, Thames, Waihi, Whangarei, Ohura, Morrinsville, Coromandel, Helensville, Otorohanga, Pukekohe, Whakatane, Kawakawa, Matakohē, Rawene, Te Kuiti, Whangaroa, Matamata.

Wellington.—Dannevirke, Eltham, Hawera, Levin, Marton, Motueka, Ohakune, Pahiatua, Patea, Stratford, Taihape, Waipukurau, Woodville, Feilding, Waipawa, Wairoa, Bull's, Hunterville, Waitara, Opunake, Takapau, Tokomaru, Picton.

Canterbury.—Ashburton, Fairlie, Hokitika, Kaikoura, Reefton, Rangiora, Temuka, Waimate, Westport, Geraldine.

Otago.—Clyde, Gore, Roxburgh, Balclutha, Lawrence, Queenstown.

The Department would again acknowledge and heartily thank the various Boards and Committees for their loyal and strenuous work, which has proved of the greatest assistance in carrying on the work of the Department.

BENEFITS PROVIDED FOR DISCHARGED SOLDIERS.

Under the Repatriation Act and the instructions issued in connection therewith a wide range of assistance is available to discharged soldiers. This assistance may be summarized under three main headings, viz. :—

1. *Employment*.—The placing in suitable employment of all discharged soldiers who apply to the Department for assistance in that direction.

2. *Training*.—The educational and vocational training of discharged soldiers and soldiers' widows.

3. *Financial Assistance*.—The granting of financial assistance to discharged soldiers for the purpose of purchasing or establishing businesses, obtaining furniture, tools of trade, equipment, &c.

SECTION I.—EMPLOYMENT.

In our last report, issued in August, 1919, it was mentioned that men were at that time being discharged from the New Zealand Expeditionary Force at the rate of six thousand per month, and it was anticipated that the task of placing the large number of applicants in congenial employment (many of them capable of doing only light work) would severely test the organization of the Department.

Happily we are now in a position to report that, although since that date a further 11,519 men have been returned to the Dominion and have been discharged, the Department has successfully coped with the light-employment problem, and has succeeded in placing applicants in suitable positions.

The measure of success attained by the various Employment Committees and departmental officers throughout the Dominion may be gauged from the fact that the number awaiting employment (shown as only 438 in the last annual report) decreased appreciably month by month as from that date, and has not at any time during the past six months exceeded 180, which is considerably less than an ordinary week's placement.

Since its inception the Department has placed a total of 18,051 men; and the following table gives an indication of the number absorbed by the various groups of industry in each of the four districts :—

Group.	Auckland.	Wellington.	Canterbury.	Otago.	Total.
1. Wood, furniture, timber, &c. ..	312	391	236	200	1,139
2. Engineers, metal-workers ..	373	568	231	274	1,446
3. Food, tobacco, &c. ..	145	204	194	90	633
4. Clothing, boots, &c. ..	105	205	142	113	565
5. Books, printing, &c. ..	94	92	96	44	326
6. Other manufacturing ..	202	136	210	96	644
7. Building ..	228	262	200	74	764
8. Mining and quarrying ..	69	106	187	68	430
9. Rail and tram services ..	79	217	174	107	577
10. Other land transport ..	196	224	221	92	733
11. Shipping, wharf labour, &c. ..	65	105	122	58	350
12. Pastoral, agriculture, &c. ..	521	1,176	475	395	2,567
13. Domestic, hotels, &c. ..	169	321	163	79	732
14. General labour and miscellaneous ..	932	1,488	996	676	4,092
15. Clerical ..	294	509	299	205	1,307
16. Government ..	347	747	268	384	1,746
Totals ..	4,131	6,751	4,214	2,955	18,051