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War Rehabilitation Council — Reports

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REPORT

of the

Post-War

Rehabilitation and Reconstruction

Committee

of

The New Westminster Board of Trade



March - 1944

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REPORT

of the
Post-War Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee
of
The New Westminster Board of Trade
March - 1944

YOUR COMMITTEE has approached the subject of Post-War Rehabilitation and Reconstruction as a complex problem which must be broken down into its component parts before being subjected to careful study. Our post-war plans have two aims, first the rehabilitation after the cessation of hostilities of those men and women in the armed services, and second the improvement of British Columbia industrially, agriculturally, socially and morally. While many of our recommendations refer to the City of New Westminster we have not confined ourselves to a narrow view of the subject and in fact the principles on which our recommendations are based make them applicable in most cases equally well to all parts of Canada or the world.

It is inevitable that some rehabilitation measures will involve the expenditure of considerable sums of public money but in your committee's opinion the following recommendations are based on good common sense, are in most cases self-liquidating, and in the aggregate will return to this Province in value, many times their original cost.

For convenience the recommendations of your committee have been broken down into nine main headings, as follows, but it should be remembered that all of these topics are interrelated and indivisible and an underlying principle of conservation runs through all.

1. Harbour and Waterfront Development.
2. Highways.
3. Housing.
4. Lumbering.
5. Industry.
6. Fishing.
7. Agriculture.
8. Conservation.
9. Racial Minorities and Immigration.

HARBOUR AND WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT

Your committee recommends:

1. Local Rail Service

A study of the railway freight servicing facilities of the City indicates a situation which is badly in need of adjustment. The large number of tracks paralleling Front Street belonging to four railroad companies should be susceptible to relocation and their numbers reduced from five and six parallel tracks to a maximum of three. This would provide sufficient trackage for the through traffic and release potentially valuable land for more useful purposes. Consideration should be given to a plan of having all railway freight traffic entering or passing through the City handled by one authority, such as a Terminal Railway Company.

2. Fish Boat Berths

At the present time there are very inadequate berthing facilities provided for the fishing fleet, and these facilities together with those providing Marine fuels tend to prevent the use of the waterfront for the purpose for which it was intended, deep sea berthing. Consideration should be given to their removal to a more suitable site.

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3. Harbour Expansion

The natural direction of expansion of harbour facilities for deep sea traffic would seem to be in the closing of the space between the foot of Eighth Street and the foot of Tenth Street by providing a deep sea berth in that location. This would provide a continuous quay dock from the foot of Royal Avenue to about the foot of Fourth Street and would give ample berthing facilities for eight average deep sea ships at one time, sufficient for the requirements of the Port for some time to come. This improvement would greatly appreciate the appearance and facilities of the Port and provide employment of men and material for a self sustaining asset.

4. Agricultural Products Handling Facilities

The establishing in the City of facilities for the distribution of fresh fruits and vegetables, both local and imported, should be carefully considered. It seems apparent that present facilities of this nature located elsewhere are inadequate and obsolete and their location at present does not lend itself to enlargement or modernization.

A new establishment providing cool and cold storage space near water and rail transportation should greatly improve the free and economical handling and distribution of this item of vital local and national importance. The Port of New Westminster could become the "New Market" of the Greater Metropolitan area of the Lower Mainland adjacent as we are to the agricultural areas of the Fraser and Okanagan Valleys.

5. City Improvement

There is an opportunity now, before certain areas are built up, to improve that section of the City from the B. C. Electric station westward to the point where Tenth Street intersects. A revision of the many railway tracks at that point and a relocation of both the B. C. Electric and C. P. R. Stations to a point west of their present sites would forever remove the hazards of mixed highway and railway traffic and at the same time provide services for rail and interurban traffic more in keeping with the times. Furthermore, Front Street could be continued in a westerly direction to intersect with what is now old Columbia Street and thus provide a waterfront by-pass for highway traffic of an industrial nature. By removing the present stations valuable business blocks are made available in the only area left for expansion.

Furthermore, planning should be done along the lines of extending old Columbia Street westerly and improving same, so that it could function as a feeder to the City from the industrial area along the North Arm of the Fraser at least as far west as the site of the B. C. Plywoods plant with the ultimate intention of extension to Marpole. (See also Sections 1 and 9 under "Highways.")

6. Highway Facilities

Finally emphasis should be placed on the desirability of completing the often proposed all weather road connecting the interior of the Province with the coast. The Hope-Princeton/Okanagan Highway should prove of inestimable value to the residents of both the coast and the interior providing as it would a short dependable means of communication between peoples and products too long separated. Overnight freight services could provide the people of the coast area with the wonderful agricultural products of the Okanagan. (See also Section 8 under "Highways.")

HIGHWAYS

Your committee recommends that the City of New Westminster be urged to construct or improve the following highways:

1. Low Level Industrial Highway

It is recommended that the City secure a right of way 66 feet in width and construct a low level industrial highway from the foot of Tenth Street along the North Arm of the Fraser River. This road should be located to continue the old Columbia Street along the Pacific Coast Terminals and Mohawk Lumber Company, thence along the right of way of the Canadian National Railway to the west boundary of the City. It may involve a re-arrangement of tracks so that both the Canadian National Railway and Lulu Island Railway use the tracks of the latter.

2. Ewen Avenue

It is recommended that Ewen Avenue be improved from the bridge across the North Arm to the West boundary of the City. Should a high level bridge be built in a different location than the present Lulu Island bridge, it would be necessary to make adjustments in Ewen Avenue to connect.

3. Brunette Street

It is recommended that Brunette Street be improved from Columbia Street to the East boundary of the City in time to connect traffic with the Lougheed Highway, when the Provincial Government completes this Highway to the Pitt River Bridge.

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4. Cut Off Road to Sixth Avenue

It is recommended that the City secure a right of way and construct a road from a point at the foot of Twelfth Street and running North of and parallel to the Highland Park branch of the B. C. E. R. to Sixth Avenue.

5. Eighth Avenue

It is recommended that Eighth Avenue be improved from end to end, as it is the only straight road which crosses the City from West to East. It should be made a first class highway.

Your committee further recommends that the Provincial Government be urged to construct or complete the construction of the following highways:

6. Express Highway to Vancouver

It is recommended that the Board of Trade and the City of New Westminster co-operate with the Department of Public Works with a view to so locating this Express Highway between the Pattullo Bridge and Vancouver that it will be most readily accessible for use by our city.

7. Lougheed Highway

The early completion of the Lougheed Highway is recommended in order to give the agricultural areas North of the Fraser River easier access to New Westminster and Vancouver.

8. Hope-Princeton Highway

The early completion of the Hope-Princeton Highway is recommended in order to give the Okanagan Districts easier access to New Westminster and Vancouver.

9. Low Level Industrial Highway

It is recommended that the low level industrial highway referred to in Section 1 be extended westward from the City boundary in the direction of Marpole, following the North Arm of the Fraser River as closely as is practical.

HOUSING

It is a generally acknowledged fact that during the transition period of industry from a war basis to a peace basis it will be necessary to provide employment on a large scale which must of necessity take the form of public works, or employment which can be taken care of by the construction industry. It is inevitable that under this heading the construction of new homes will play a major part. An extensive public works programme can be carried out only by the State, involving as it does the providing of large sums of money which necessitates the continuation of taxation at a very high rate in order to pay for this programme. On the other hand Housing as a works programme can be provided on a self-liquidating loan basis, and unquestionably will provide a wider type of employment than any other works programme which can be carried out.

It is the considered opinion of your committee that definite plans should be made at once, setting out the basis on which loans will be available for the construction of homes and also on what basis credits will be provided to municipal governments to install the necessary services such as sewers, roads and sidewalks in areas which can be developed for housing purposes.

Dealing with the question of the Municipal problem first, your committee wishes to point out that we have in our city a large area in the Reservoir District suitable for development as a residential area and it will be of the utmost importance that the credits required by the City to develop this area should be available so that this development can take place immediately at the end of the war.

There is another problem to which your committee gave considerable thought and that was the method or plan which could be followed to set up what might be termed a Demolition Fund, out of which could be purchased at an appraised value the old home of any property owner desirous of erecting a modern home, but felt he could not do so without some financial assistance. This is a problem of every city in Canada and it is imperative that some scheme be worked out to meet this phase of housing and re-housing the people of this country.

Your committee also gave some thought and consideration to the question of development of lands adjacent to the City of New Westminster for the construction of homes for men and women working in the industries of our city. In view of the interest which the City of New Westminster has in the development of the Fraser Valley your committee feels that there should be a recommendation in its report as to the advisability of Housing Act money being made available for the construction of homes and farm buildings on land in the Fraser Valley adjacent to the City of New Westminster. It is the feeling of your committee that the prosperity of these areas is so linked with the business life of our City that it should be well within the scope of our Board of Trade to make recommendations with reference to home construction in the areas immediately contributory to our City, if not throughout the entire Fraser Valley. In this connection it was the feeling of your committee that some plan should be worked out in our post-war rehabilitation programme under which land at present idle in Surrey could be cleared and subdivided into one- or two-

acre lots and funds made available under the Housing Act to construct homes and farm buildings. The idea behind the scheme would be to get our mill and factory workers settled on a plot of ground which would provide them with a part time occupation should there be seasonal lay offs in our industries. It was the feeling of your committee that a scheme as outlined above would meet with considerable success. (See also co-related recommendations under "Agriculture.")

NATIONAL HOUSING ACT

Your committee is of the opinion that a recommendation should be made to the proper authority that an office of the Federal Housing Authority be set up in the City of New Westminster to facilitate the flow of loans to those wishing them, and where inquiries can be made regarding housing act loans. As your committee sees it this is an important step in getting loans into the hands of people desiring to build homes. Up to the present loans under the National Housing Act have been made in selected parts of the City. It is important in the Post-War period that loans should be available under the Housing Act in all parts of the City.

Under Part 11 of the National Housing Act loans are available for the construction of low rental housing. Your Committee wishes to suggest that it should be brought to the attention of the Provincial and Municipal authorities that the plan under which this money will be used in the Post-War period should be worked out and ready at the end of the war. As these loans require a provincial guarantee when made to a municipal authority and require fixed municipal taxation if made to a private corporation, this matter should be brought to the attention of the proper authority in connection with Post-War Rehabilitation so that a scheme can be worked out which would have the co-operation of the Provincial and Municipal Governments.

LUMBERING

Since lumber and wood products represent the major manufactured products of the Port of New Westminster and since these industries have their own peculiar set of problems due in part to the fact that they depend to a large measure on export trade, your committee has chosen to deal with them under a separate head.

Your committee had originally planned to prepare a brief dealing with this industry, and had in fact made a study of the situation when it developed that the report of the British Columbia Lumber and Shingle Association was completed and being submitted to the Special Committee dealing with Rehabilitation at Ottawa. After a study of this report it was evident that any attempt on our part to make a separate report covering the purely local situation would be superfluous.

Accordingly your committee recommends:

1. That the Board of Trade endorse the recommendations made by the British Columbia Lumber and Shingle Association in their current rehabilitation report being submitted to Ottawa.
2. That the Board of Trade endorse the principle of conservation as applied to this industry. (See also section under "Conservation.")

INDUSTRY

Your committee wishes to make the following observation and recommendations:

1. In the immediate post-war years many large manufacturing firms at present located in Eastern Canada are going to be forcibly impressed by the desirability of locating branch factories in British Columbia. This will be due partly to the growing population and importance of Western Canada and partly to the expected opening up of great trade opportunities in the Pacific area. It may also be motivated by the desire of manufacturers to divide their manufacturing interests to attain greater labor and raw material stability.
2. Any large influx of industries into this area is possible only with the development of more and cheaper hydro-electric power.
3. Your committee recommends the appointment of an "Industrial Development Committee" to:
 - (a) Study the requirements as regards site, power, labor, water, market and raw materials, of the various industries not now located in the New Westminster area.
 - (b) Study the facilities which might be offered these industries in this port; and
 - (c) Make definite efforts to encourage logical industries to locate in New Westminster.
 - (d) Study the situation and if necessary make recommendations calculated to keep our present industries healthy and flourishing.

(e) Study and if considered necessary bring in recommendations with respect to the location of air fields in the New Westminster area and the adaption of such sites to air transportation and private plane use. Consideration should also be given to the use of such air fields for the sale, servicing and repair of both commercial and private planes.

FISHING

Your committee endorses the recommendations of the Provincial Post-War Rehabilitation Council and believes that the growth of the fishing industry is overwhelmingly dependent on conservation.

AGRICULTURE

The part that agriculture must play in the post-war rehabilitation of returned men is necessarily large and its problems are so complex that they require the careful study of trained agriculturists. It is, from this distance, easy to see the shortcomings of the schemes which followed the First Great War and it is our duty now to develop plans which will succeed when the present conflict is over.

To be successful these plans must:

1. Settle reasonably large numbers of returned men on the land.
2. Provide every reasonable opportunity for the individual to make a fair living so that by far the largest percentage of the settlers will remain permanently on the land on which they are located.

Your committee believes that at the outset it is necessary to adopt the following principles:

1. Settlement should be completed first in areas already provided with social services. There will always be a small minority who prefer the frontiers and new areas opened up will provide for these as settlement of the older areas is completed.

2. The cleared acreage on which a man is placed must be of sufficient size to be an economic unit so that he will have every reasonable chance to make a living for himself and his family. The size of this acreage will depend on whether the settler is to be a full-time or a part-time farmer and also on the kind of farming to be practised.

3. The cost of the land to the returned man must be calculated on its productive value at the long term average farm produce prices, irrespective of the actual cost of the land cleared and put in proper shape for farming operations.

4. Land should not be turned over to the prospective settler until it is in proper shape for farming operations and this might be defined as being cleared, drained or dyked as required, and limed. Buildings, livestock and equipment are of course necessary and provision is made for them under the Veterans' Land Act.

5. The settler must within reason have the privilege of selecting the district in which he wishes to live, but this and the soil as well must be suitable for the kind of farming in which he wishes to engage.

6. The settler must be given preliminary training or apprenticeship and this should be followed by proper supervision over a basic period of several years.

Working on the assumption in Principle 1 it becomes necessary to develop areas contiguous to Vancouver and New Westminster. This brings us to the principle that it is just as necessary to plan for the development of this area as to conduct town planning in the development of cities such as New Westminster and Vancouver. For this reason your committee recommends:

A Land Use Survey of the Fraser Valley

Throughout the Fraser Valley we have soils varying in texture from light gravelly soils lying on steep slopes to heavy low lying soils, and associated with this we have a climate varying from heavy rainfall with resulting extreme leaching in the winter months to extreme drought in July and August. This results in drought conditions on all soils but particularly on the light lying soils. This shortage of soil moisture accentuates the need for conserving ground water supplies to a maximum degree and brings up the question of efficient land use. This cannot be determined for any locality except through an effective "Land Use Survey."

A "Land Use Survey" is based essentially on soil surveys and it is interesting to note that the entire Fraser Valley has been soil surveyed. It is to be expected that a "Land Use Survey" might designate certain logged off areas which should be reforested and set up as perpetual forest reserves free from any land clearing or agriculture. Other districts would be mapped out as being suitable for general farming, poultry raising, small fruits, nut culture or other small holdings depending on soil types, water supply and general topography.

It would seem that this survey should be conducted by the Provincial Government and be made by a committee consisting possibly of a soils man, a crops man and a forester with facilities for consultation with water engineers, electrical engineers and geographers.

Since the Fraser Valley is already reasonably well settled it is obvious that large numbers of returned men could be settled in this area only if the following steps were taken:

1. The farms formerly operated by Japanese should be made available. Recent press dispatches appearing since this report was originally compiled indicate that the Dominion Government has already established a favorable policy in this regard.

2. Large scale mechanical land clearing should be undertaken at Government expense. This of course should be done only on the recommendations of the "Land Use Survey."

3. Reclamation of areas involving soils of good texture which are badly in need of proper drainage and liming. Hatzic Prairie and the districts lying north of Pitt Meadows might fall into this category. In addition there is said to be a considerable acreage of land in the immediate vicinity of Vancouver and New Westminster which could be reclaimed by dyking projects.

Some of the additional benefits which would accrue to the system of rehabilitation recommended in this report follow:

1. It would be possible to have consolidated farming blocks rather than scattered farms separated by areas of bush.

2. This would permit economical rural electrification and telephone service, community use of farm equipment, better and cheaper social services and in some cases local reservoirs and water piping.

3. It would permit settlement of two types of settlers, the full time farmer on relatively large holdings, and the part time farmer on small holdings closer to the city. The man on the small holding could supplement his income by working in seasonal industries in the city and by fishing. This would benefit the community also in that it would provide intermittent labor of a good type for seasonable occupations. (See also Section under "Housing.")

CONSERVATION

Your committee would like to point out to the members of the Board that almost every angle of rehabilitation and reconstruction is tied up directly or indirectly with conservation. The post-war era is going to be an era of conservation. May we point out a few of its effects on our industry and life.

1. Lumbering

The future of this business is dependent on properly using what we have and in reforestation.

2. Fishing

Conservation can bring back the Fraser River to one of the world's great fishing streams.

3. Power

Development of hydro-electric power is conservation. This in turn is dependent on conservation of the watersheds through establishment of parks, forest fire control and reforestation.

4. Agriculture

Dependent on soil conservation, erosion control and water supply conservation through reforestation.

5. Recreation and the Tourist Industry

Again dependent to the greatest extent on conservation.

Your committee believes that a widespread application of the principles of conservation is possible only through education of the people and this education should start with the children. In recommending education on conservation your committee sets out the following principles or requirements governing this type of education:

1. A deep complete and permanent conception of the meaning of conservation. There is no single definition of the word but it may be described as "wise use." It includes also "sustained production" and represents the proper administration of resources for the welfare of all. It involves keeping our resources such as land, timber, fish, range, and water supplies in a state of high productivity and used on a crop basis.

2. Every citizen must have as complete a knowledge as is possible of the resources we possess. Most people do not know what we possess and are therefore little concerned about the tremendous wastages which are so evident in this province.

3. Every citizen must practice conservation. Most of us have been shocked at some time or other at the glaring examples of lack of conservation but this has not been enough to stop them. It will take a broad movement by a well informed public, thinking and practising conservation to compel action along right lines.

RACIAL MINORITIES AND IMMIGRATION

Your committee feels that no report of this nature would be complete without mention of this important subject. We can make plans to bring in new industry and improve our community but, from our perhaps selfish point of view, we cannot reap the maximum benefit from this unless our Government adopts a policy which will preserve this Province for people of the white races. Your committee therefore makes the following recommendations:

1. That the Government adopt a policy which will prevent the re-establishment of people of the Japanese race in the coastal areas of British Columbia. Admittedly such a policy would work a hardship on some 10,000 Canadian born Japanese, but would not this be much less of an injustice than that which would be done to some hundreds of thousands or even millions of white Canadians if the Japanese were allowed to stay? For practical purposes it may be said that the Japanese are non-assimilable. Their rate of increase is over five times the rate of increase of the white people of this Province and under the conditions existing before the war it was the considered opinion of those in possession of the facts that it would have been a matter of less than forty years until the Japanese population exceeded the white population of B. C. In almost every activity, particularly farming and fishing, we have been unable to compete with them due in part to their lower standard of living. Surely if we reinstate the pre-war conditions we will be merely building up trouble and possible bloodshed and setting the stage for the eventual exclusion of the white man from B. C. Whatever policy is decided upon will inevitably work a hardship on some. Let us adopt the policy which will work the least hardship on the fewest number of people and preserve B. C. for our children.
2. That the Government adopt a policy towards the white minorities of non-British descent which will eventually effect their assimilation as useful accepted members of our society. It would appear that this policy should include clauses which would prevent segregation and the resulting language barriers.
3. That the Government adopt an immigration policy based on the recognition of the fact that Canada needs a greater population. We wish to stress the danger of admitting persons of a non-assimilable race, while pointing out the advantages of having the preponderance of immigrants from English speaking countries, yet a reasonable admixture of non-English speaking white peoples preferably from northern or temperate climates.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion your committee wishes to make the following observations and recommendations:

1. The statements, ideas and recommendations in this report represent the considered, honest and unanimous opinion of all members of your committee. Individual interests have been entirely submerged. It is recognized that there will be divergence of opinion among Board members on some points but this is considered to be a not unhealthy situation and one conducive to constructive thinking and discussion.
2. It is your committee's opinion that post-war rehabilitation and reconstruction is a problem requiring the closest co-operation between the various cities, towns and municipalities of British Columbia, between the nine provinces of Canada and between the members of the United Nations. Your committee cannot hold with the view that a difference in interests exists between New Westminster and Vancouver and recommends that decisions affecting the two cities be made on the basis of the common good, believing that in the long run, what is good for one city will also be good for the other. With this in mind it is recommended:
3. That the City of New Westminster employ the services of an unprejudiced commercial town planner and that every effort be made to work in conjunction with the City of Vancouver so that the whole Metropolitan area may be planned as a unit. This report makes one recommendation which involves the moving of a group of wholesalers from Vancouver to New Westminster and it is to be expected that similar moves in the opposite direction could be recommended and substantiated. It is your committee's view that a neutral town planner could weigh such suggestions with an unbiased mind and make recommendations in the common good. The above remarks apply equally as well to the relations of New Westminster to the Fraser Valley, the Okanagan and all other parts of the province.
4. It is recommended that if a town planner is employed this and similar reports be submitted to him so that he can select the good points and discard those which may be premature, impractical or otherwise undesirable.
5. It is recommended that the Board of Trade adopt an active policy on the matter of rehabilitation and reconstruction, appointing further committees for the study of the problem and making timely recommendations to the proper authorities as the executive may see fit.

Respectfully submitted this tenth day of March, 1944.

NEW WESTMINSTER BOARD OF TRADE.

A PROPOSAL FOR A POST-WAR HOUSING PROGRAMME
IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

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A BRIEF SUBMITTED TO THE BRITISH
COLUMBIA POST-WAR REHABILITATION
COUNCIL BY THE HOUSING COMMITTEE
OF THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS INSTITUTE
OF THE VANCOUVER Y.M.C.A.

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P R E F A C E

In August 1942 a conference, on Politics and Economics, was held by the Public Affairs Institute at Camp Elphinstone on Howe Sound. Following the discussions on Post-War Rehabilitation, conducted at this camp, a number of the Institute members met regularly throughout the winter months to take up a specific aspect of this subject - namely, Post-War Housing in British Columbia. It was intended that the conclusions resulting from this study should be presented to the British Columbia Post-War Rehabilitation Council.

The following is a report of the findings and recommendations of the group.

A PROPOSAL FOR A POST WAR HOUSING PROGRAMME IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

There have been in the past in British Columbia, and more particularly in Vancouver, many fine efforts by well intentioned private, semi-public and public bodies to be of assistance in providing a solution to British Columbia's housing problem. We note that Jont Grey had the first zoning by-law in Canada, and certain of our larger companies have provided good housing conditions for their workmen at reasonable prices. The development plan drawn up by the Greater Vancouver Town Planning Commission is an excellent groundwork on which Vancouver may build with confidence. It should be the concern of all intelligent and public-spirited citizens to see that this plan is fulfilled in accordance with the best methods and most up-to-date knowledge and experience available.

So much for the blue-print -- now let us look at the actual situation. We must confess that at the present time, too large a portion of our housing constitutes not only a menace to the health and well-being of the present occupants, but also a source of blighted humanity which will, through no fault of its own, be unable to contribute a full share to the development of the community or of the nation. While the need for improved housing, particularly for certain sections of our population, is evident on many sides, the extent of this need is all too often underestimated. There is no excuse, in a young and growing province such as British Columbia, for the deplorable housing conditions which are already too prevalent in many of our urban and rural areas.

During the depression years, unemployment and lack of business activity cut home building to a minimum. Housing conditions in centres near industrial works and training centres, already acute before the war, have now been aggravated by recent increases in population and by the almost complete cessation of home construction. It has been reliably estimated that there is now in Vancouver alone a backlog of some 10,000 needed homes. As a result, we find in this city many hundreds of examples of serious overcrowding and a definite shortage of property for rent or sale. Besides the desperate lack of houses available, consideration must be given to the fact that possibly one-fifth of all existing dwellings are either badly outmoded or in need of immediate repairs. Conditions in the city show more variation from excellent to very poor than in the country. Housing on our western Canadian farms is perhaps more uniformly poor than in the cities. This is especially so in the pioneer settlements, in fact, in all areas but the well-established ones. Detailed sur-

veys of conditions on B.C. farms have not been reported, but the obvious fact is that on most farms the housewife's life is one of unnecessarily hard work and drudgery. Too few of even the most substantial farm houses have running water, bathroom facilities or electricity.

The Report of the Lieutenant-Governor's Committee on Housing Conditions in Toronto gives the results of an exhaustive study of the housing situation in that city. A few figures from the Report, which could be duplicated in any comparable situation in British Columbia, should serve to focus attention on the effects of poor housing on health and morals:

(1) The report revealed a T.B. rate of 2.5 per thousand among the more adequately housed groups, in contrast to a rate of 3.7 per thousand among the more poorly housed people.

(2) Infant mortality ranged from 6.3 per thousand in a good district to 12.1 in a very poor district.

(3) General mortality jumped from 10.8 per thousand among those living in four-room houses to 29.9 per thousand among those living in one-room houses.

(4) Delinquency and adult crime flourish in the poorer sections of our cities.

The Toronto survey reports a four-fold increase in juvenile crime when the poorer sections were compared with the better areas.

In the office files of the Vancouver Town Planning Commission are the reports of several surveys of Vancouver's housing situation conducted by reliable groups and various special organizations. These reports reveal a state of housing equally as deplorable as any found in the Toronto survey. Surely we must agree that people should not be expected -- in fact -- should not be allowed to endure conditions producing such misery and despair.

One of the disturbing features of present day slums is that despite expenditures for social and welfare work, in these areas conditions perpetuate themselves and in fact become steadily worse. Unless the underlying contributory causes are recognized and removed, the expenditure of even large sums of money for the maintenance of health and order serves only to palliate

and not to correct the situation, and brings no lasting benefits. It is not only sound sociology but sound economy to remove these blighted areas and to prevent their recurrence. One example from the city of Boston will serve to illustrate this point. It costs the city of Boston \$48.00 per year per inhabitant just to keep up police and fire protection, public health and other municipal services in the slums, while in the city's other residential districts the cost of

services is less than \$11.00 per person.

Similar data are not available for Vancouver, but it is obvious that if even comparable figures are applicable the saving by slum clearance from this source alone would be tremendous.

The cost to a nation for its tolerance of slum and semi-slum conditions cannot be measured in terms of dollars and cents alone, for the toll taken by disease and crime, which have their firmest footholds in slums, cannot be estimated by our usual yardsticks. Tuberculosis and rickets are diseases of poverty and poor housing. Conditions of over-crowding, lack of toilet facilities and filth described in the Vancouver surveys are factors contributing to the existence and maintenance of disease and epidemics. Teachers from the poorer sections of the city report that children from such homes as those described are unable to make the progress that they would under better environmental conditions. Clearly, good housing and sound nutrition go hand in hand to make a fine, sturdier nation. It is simply false economy for British Columbia (and Canada) to neglect any longer than is absolutely necessary her already too large areas of sub-standard housing, both urban and rural.

An analysis of our urban dwellers from the standpoint of their ability to provide satisfactory housing suggests that they may be divided into three general groups:

- (1) Those whose income is sufficient to enable them to become home owners without any form of assistance.
- (2) Those persons of moderate income who are able to make a small down payment and meet amortization payments with some degree of confidence. This group includes professional men and women in the lower salaried brackets, teachers, clerks, and skilled artisans. From the point of view of numbers and stability, this is an important group in the community.
- (3) Those persons whose income is insufficient for one reason or another to provide, without some form of assistance, the minimum comforts necessary for decency and wellbeing. This too often neglected group includes our lower-paid workers, our aged and infirm, and those in receipt of public assistance in one form or another. The meagre incomes of persons in this group are insufficient to enable them under present costs to become home owners, and as a result they are forced to seek shelter in the poorer parts, oftentimes at rents far in excess of the true worth of the property they live in.

Included in this class is a great percentage of our Canadian workmen.

Dr. G.G. Faludi, University of Toronto housing expert, has stated that 62 percent of Canadian workers should not spend more than \$20.00 monthly for rent because of low earnings. This statement is confirmed by investigations of U.S. authorities. The Committee on Relationship of Income and the Home of the Hoover Conference on Housing in 1932 reported in part as follows:

"The varied studies of this Committee have demonstrated that there are within the American population large numbers of families who cannot under any circumstances afford to purchase houses." While many of our housing plans in Canada have been commendable, they have very largely overlooked this important group. From the standpoint of the manner in which we have failed to meet the needs of this substantial section of the population, Canada's housing programme has been definitely inadequate. This has not at all times been the fault of Dominion authorities, but rather in some instances at least has been due to selfishness and lack of foresight on the part of local bodies.

Part I of the National Housing Act (1938), providing for loans to approved persons, at reasonable rates of interest, was of great assistance to many middle-class citizens. Part III of the Act provided assistance for those who wished to make improvements to their homes. However, Part II, which provided for the loaning of money to local housing authorities or municipal councils at low rates of interest ($1\frac{3}{4}$ - 2%) for low-cost, low-rent housing projects, was a complete failure; for no Canadian city had sufficient foresight to take advantage of the opportunity presented. Construction under the War-time Housing Act has certainly filled an immediate need, but it is feared that after the war, houses built under this plan will not be considered temporary and, quickly deteriorating, will become a liability to the community.

While the assistance given by government authorities has been far from negligible, the greatest portion of Canadian housing has been provided by private enterprise. That it has sometimes succeeded in providing housing in keeping with the best knowledge and standards in our possession is evident in the substantial residential districts of our cities -- built up by private enterprise for that section of our population which can afford to pay the price. It is, however, also obvious that private enterprise cannot and should not be expected to provide accommodation for the lower-income groups. This seems to us clearly a responsibility of society at large. It is difficult to follow the reasoning of those who oppose public provision for decent accom-

modation for the lower-income groups, while at the same time admitting the inability of private enterprise to provide this necessity.

With this background of understanding of the situation in Canada, the group proceeded to examine what had been accomplished in other countries -- notably England, Holland, Sweden and the United States. For the purposes of this report, it will be sufficient to note a few of the chief characteristics of the housing programmes in these countries.

(1) Town planning is considered a necessity.

(2) Government agencies have been set up to provide low-cost, low-rent housing to meet the needs of the lower-income groups.

(3) Local bodies work in close cooperation with the central planning authority and are largely given the responsibility for the actual details and execution of the plan.

(4) In some cases, a significant development has been the collaboration of government and civic authorities with trade unions and cooperative societies.

A very special example is found in the city of London which has built and manages 65,000 homes for the low-income workers. Some of the benefits derived from the housing programme in England, were clearly shown when the first men were drafted for the present war. Of those called in 1939, 83% ranked as first class, compared to 36% in 1917-18.

Before outlining its proposals for housing in British Columbia, this group would point out that the size of the undertaking will be reduced by the continued provision of full employment. Many war workers in receipt of an adequate income for the first time in over ten years would become home owners if they were able with any certainty to plan on employment after the war. Continuous full employment is the first requisite in the correction of most of our social ills, including poor housing. With a steady wage, the city dweller will aspire to and secure for himself the best available accommodation, and with a decent standard of rural living, the rural dweller will demonstrate that he too needs and can enjoy better accommodation.

It is not too early to lay our Provincial plans for a post-war housing development in British Columbia. Much ground work will be necessary before a plan can be put into operation. Details pertaining to the division of responsibility between the Dominion, Provincial and Municipal authorities should be decided on at as early a date as possible.

The maintenance of an overall social standard in matters of health, pension, housing and education would seem properly to constitute a responsibility for the Federal Government. If our population is to be rehoused, and in our opinion that will be one of our most immediate and pressing post-war problems, the Dominion Government will have a definite responsibility. Our Provincial Government will in addition to passing the necessary enabling legislation have to assume the role of integrating Dominion and Municipal plans. Past experience has proved that Municipal Councils or properly constituted local housing authorities are most efficacious in carrying out plans embodying the needs of the community. It is true that under this suggested arrangement, authority is divided, but each has a stake in the success of the plan and it is therefore much more likely to succeed.

In the matter of post war housing, the B.C. Post-War Rehabilitation Council will no doubt work in close conjunction with Dr. James' National Council on Post-War Reconstruction. Unless the trend with respect to the method of dealing with the matter of finance is reversed, and that seems unlikely, the financing of any post-war housing project would be a Dominion responsibility with the necessary schemes and administration being provided by the Provincial and Municipal authorities.

Because there are more data relative to Vancouver in our discussions, we have limited ourselves to the problem as it pertains to this city. Similar conditions exist in other B.C. municipalities. The actual extent of these conditions, however, can only be determined by a survey conducted for that purpose.

As stated previously, at the present time, Vancouver city is in need of 10,000 houses, and this number will continue to increase as the war is prolonged and building programmes are delayed. The workmen and materials, which will be used in the construction of this number of houses, indicates the need for a timing plan. In order to make as decent a progress as possible, a programme involving the construction of not less than 2,000 dwellings per year in Vancouver, over a five-year period, should be drawn up, subject to upward revision when the need is demonstrated. The final decision, with respect to the number of each type of home built, must be based on the existing needs. While housing of all types is short, the greatest need today is for the low-cost, low-rental house, and it is the needs of the groups which can afford only this type of house that must be given special consider-

ation. If provision is to be made for this low-income group, an extension of our housing programme into the field of public or municipal housing is essential. This means that substantial assistance must be forthcoming from the Dominion, Provincial and Municipal governments. The form that such assistance will take may be determined by a number of factors. Plans may include (1) a writing-off of a portion of the initial costs in a manner analogous to that proposed for soldier settlers on farms, (2) the waiving of certain charges and the lowering of interest rates, (3) the sponsorship of schemes involving prefabrication and the use of low-cost materials certain to be available as a result of advances in wartime research, (4) the granting of low interest loans to cooperative building societies.

Very little data relative to housing conditions in rural areas is available, and the problem in rural areas presents its own set of conditions. The provision of cheap credit for specified improvements would seem to constitute the greatest need. The framing of special legislation, meeting the need of rural areas is urgently needed. Rural Canada, by study and other means, is awakening to the discrepancy in living standards between the urban and rural areas. After the war, an insistence on the part of Canadian agriculture for a more equitable share will become increasingly strong, and those of us interested in the field of housing should be appreciative of the problems confronting rural Canada, and be ready to provide not only the initiative, but also considerable assistance in the solution of this, one of their many problems.

As a result of its studies, this Committee makes the following recommendations for a programme of rural and urban redevelopment as one of the necessary public undertakings in British Columbia during the post-war period.

1. That a Provincial Planning and Housing Commission be appointed to determine and plan an urban and rural re-development program to provide our population with adequate and healthy housing with all social amenities consistent with proper living standards. The duties of such Commission would be:

- (a) To determine the boundaries of areas within which regional planning might be satisfactorily co-ordinated under regional planning authorities to be established.

- (b) To co-ordinate and schedule construction plans for all regions within the entire Province, in order to secure economy in administration and use of materials.
- (c) To act as supervising agency for the allocation of funds that may be made available for construction purposes, or loans.
- (d) To recommend terms under which loans might be made to municipalities for community re-development, and to individuals for purposes of house construction and home improvement.
2. That enabling legislation be enacted to allow the establishment of a planning and housing authority in those areas able to take advantage of such legislation.
3. That provision be made enabling an immediate start at the end of hostilities upon a planned program of construction of an additional ten thousand houses in Vancouver, at a rate of not less than two thousand per year, and in other urban and rural areas consistent with the urgency of their needs, -- the standards of these projects to be determined by the planning authority.
4. That the reconstruction program include a slum clearance plan and that a portion of the houses be constructed with public aid and be of the low-cost, low-rental type to provide accommodation for those affected by slum clearance and those in the low-income brackets.
5. That home construction and home improvement be carried out as part of a general program of civic re-development:
- (a) To remove slums, blighted and decayed areas, narrow streets and traffic congestion.
 - (b) To provide for adequate parking areas, adequate recreational facilities, and healthy industrial conditions.
6. That the housing program be designed so as to include the erection of the modern type of apartment house, for low income workers, which provides those necessary factors of air and sunlight and such facilities as nurseries, community kitchens, and laundries.
7. That provision be made for neighborhood centres to encourage co-operative effort in the productive and cultural use of leisure time.
8. That the provincial Government urge upon the Federal Government amendments to the National Housing Act (1938) and the necessary appropriations to enable the following:

- (a) Loans at low rates of interest with a low initial equity to prospective home builders in all parts of the Province.
- (b) Loans to co-operative building societies.
- (c) Loans for low-cost, low rental housing projects in municipalities.
- (d) Adjustment of taxation to meet the needs of projects and municipalities.
- (e) Application of the Act to rural districts.

9. That the Provincial Government urge upon the Federal Government the re-enactment of the Home Improvement Act, with more generous provisions, and with application to rural districts.

10. That the Provincial Government urge the Federal Government to make loans at low rates of interest to municipalities for self-liquidating projects such as public works, including electric power extension.

11. That power sites be developed to enable electrification of all railway lines within the principal cities, and the extension of electrification to the rural districts.

A comprehensive housing programme will provide a much needed stimulus not, only to the building trade itself, but also to the many allied trades -- a number of which are important primary B.C. industries. In addition to these benefits, a building programme, designed to meet adequately the needs of all sections of the community, would have a social value which can never be entirely measured in terms of dollars and cents.

Respectfully Submitted,

R.P. FORSHAW, M.Sc.
Chairman.

The members of the study group included the following: -

R.P. Forshaw - Chairman
Marjorie Smith - Secretary
Mrs. J. Van Gorder
Mrs. E. Orles
Mrs. S.G. Stewart
Jean Smith
Helen Morris
Edith Orles

Hazel Wray
Frances Brown
Margaret Matheson
Leonard Bradbury
Alfred Carlsen
Rev. T.W. Scott
Grant MacNeil, M.L.A.
Prof. F.E. Buck

REHABILITATION COUNCIL OF GREATER VANCOUVER

TO MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:

Report of the Housing Committee

At the last general meeting of the Council held on June 21st, a resolution was passed appointing a special committee to deal with the matter of housing for returned service personnel. Since that time the following action has been taken by your Executive:

On June 28th, a meeting of the Executive was held and the following housing Committee was appointed:

Hon. H. H. Stevens, Chairman, Mrs. G. G. Selman, Mr. F. W. Smelts,
Mr. J. Guy, Mr. Glen C. Hyatt, Major Harold Brown, Mr. D. McPeake, Mr. H. Dalton,
Prof. F. E. Buck, Grant McNeill.

On July 3rd the Housing Committee met to discuss the general situation. It was found that there were only 200 vacant homes in Vancouver at the present time not rented, and this was considered normal for a city the size of Vancouver. Two schemes were presented to the Committee - one being known as the Montreal scheme which called for the formation of a private company which would put up 10% of the cost and the Dominion Government would put up the 90%.

Mr. Galbraith who represents the Community Planning Division of the National Housing Commission explained this plan and illustrated his ideas with lantern slides.

A sub-committee was then appointed to investigate this matter and report as to the feasibility of this plan being adopted in Vancouver. A second sub-committee was appointed to go into the matter of what is known as the Toronto scheme. This proposition was explained to the Committee by an official of the Wartime Housing. However, it was discovered it would require the endorsement of the City Council before it could be put into operation. Your Committee met the Mayor the following day and also had an interview with the Board of Works and received the assurance of their co-operation. We are waiting to hear further from their committee findings.

July 18th - The Veterans Welfare Council and the Vancouver Rotary Club, both passed resolutions and presented them to the City Council Housing Committee endorsing the efforts of the Greater Vancouver Rehabilitation Council re Housing, and urged that action be taken immediately to co-operate with Wartime Housing in the plan to erect 250 homes.

July 21st - The Committee again interviewed the Special Housing Committee of the City Council. The Toronto Plan was discussed and explained by an official of Wartime Housing. The City Council Committee promised to further discuss the whole subject and meet our Committee again. They assure us of their wholehearted interest and co-operation.

Our Committee on National Housing Commission, have made satisfactory progress, a meeting is being arranged early this week with private interests who are interested in what is known as the Montreal Plan.

On the whole we feel that satisfactory progress has been made, and want to assure the Council that no avenue that may lead to our objective "Homes for the Armed Forces" will be left unsurveyed.

ANNUAL REPORT
CITIZENS' REHABILITATION COUNCIL.

700 West Georgia Street - Pa. 9388.
Vancouver, B. C.

February 1 - 1947

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS
TO THE ANNUAL MEETING
CITIZENS' REHABILITATION COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 28th, 1947.

The year commenced with our Council taking over at the request of the Federal Government, the operation of the Hostel in the old Hotel Vancouver. Following within a week of the occupation of the old Hotel, and without any experience in operations of this kind, but filled with an intense desire to solve a difficult problem, the Council undertook the task of the management of the Hostel. Thanks to the splendid team work, and excellent judgment in policy making by our Executive, this project has been an unqualified success.

The year ended with another problem placed on our broad door-step for us to find a solution. I refer to the almost tragic difficulties that some 35 ex-servicemen and their families, found themselves in, when a contractor building their homes for them, suddenly threw up the sponge and quit -- the veterans thereby facing almost certain loss of their substantial savings invested in homes that had little chance of being completed. Later in this report I will describe the methods adopted by our Council under the able and energetic drive of our Executive Director, Arthur Cowley, to save the situation and ensure that the veterans would get their homes after all.

This was Rehabilitation of the highest type, and it conformed in a truly fine way to the purposes of the Council at its inception -- that is "to assist in the re-establishment of the Veteran". In the case of the Hostel, we were providing a home for several veterans and their families, who would otherwise be living under impossible conditions -- and in the last case described, we were protecting the interests of veterans who might otherwise have lost their savings and their homes.

We have gone a long way from the early conception of the functions of a Citizens' Rehabilitation Council. The original Committee, which was organized as the Rehabilitation Section of the Co-ordinating Council under the Chairmanship of Dr. A. K. Haywood, would be amazed if they could have foreseen the ramifications and the activities of the Council that operates today.

The present organization was incorporated as a separate Society on 15th January, 1945, under the name of the Citizens' Rehabilitation Council of Greater Vancouver, under the energetic leadership of Mr. A. P. Allison as President. We have gone a long way from the objectives of the Council which opened the referral centre at 524 West Pender Street in March 1945. Our Council at that time had a splendid programme for assisting in the immense task of Rehabilitation, and did a magnificent job in arousing consciousness of Community responsibility, and in organizing civic bodies behind efforts to help the veteran become re-established. But those of us who were associated with Mr. A. P. Allison a year or two ago, never envisioned our having to grapple with the problems facing us today.

We know what all our earlier associates would say. We are only doing the job we are supposed to do. No one could foresee the nature or the complexity of the problems that would face us, and we have only dealt with them as they developed having in mind always, that if it helped the veteran to get back successfully and permanently on civvy street, and would contribute to his happiness and security, then that was the job we had set out to do, and we were doing no more than we had promised ourselves we would do.

At this point I should like to pause and give credit to our Executive Director, Mr. Arthur W. Cowley, for all that has been accomplished. He has been in daily contact with thousands of veterans who have brought their problems to our office. He has won their respect and confidence by the thorough manner in which he has looked after their interests. He could not solve all their problems -- no man could -- but he unhesitatingly grappled with any problem and went to endless trouble attempting to find solutions. No job has been too big for him to tackle and needless to say it hasn't been easy going, for the complexity of their problems have brought a chain of worry and concern, but he never refused to do what he could because it was troublesome or worrying. His one concern was to "help", and he has done so in a very fine way. Our Executive are aware that a large measure of credit is due to Mr. Cowley for the things we have achieved, and for which we are so proud.

I should like to pay tribute to the loyalty and devotion to duty shown by the staff under Mr. Cowley. Miss Isabel Rutter, Mrs. Grundy, Mrs. Heggie, and Miss Robinson, have contributed greatly to the success of the Council's efforts.

Also since the Hostel is an operation of the Council, I want to say a special word of thanks to the staff of the Hostel. Under the management of Mr. Fred Pauline the Hostel has been a great success. To Mr. Pauline and his assistants, Mr. Sanderson and Mr. Smyley, our thanks go for their loyalty and co-operation.

We are preparing and will mail directly to you within a few days a complete report of the activities of the Council during 1946. We will go into detail of these activities which will be worth your while reading.

Tonight, however, I will sketch for you the highlights so you may carry away with you some understanding of what has been accomplished this past year, and the nature of the projects which command our attention.

HOSTEL OPERATION.

The operation of the Hostel which was undertaken immediately after the last Annual Meeting, represents a major Community Rehabilitation project. Actually more than four thousand persons have, during the past year, been provided with a home -- with twelve hundred of that number in residence at present in the old Hotel Vancouver.

The Management Committee, under the able chairmanship of the Honorable H. H. Stevens, organized and developed the Hostel into the well run operation it is today.

They took the old building over when it was dirty, ill-smelling, and run-down. Today you see a fine old building thoroughly clean and sweet smelling; simply but comfortably furnished; with furnaces and elevators repaired; with equipment restored. You see a smoothly functioning Hostel giving shelter to twelve hundred persons which include three hundred children.

You can imagine what a God-send it has proven to these fine young people to have a home that is warm and dry and comfortable, who might otherwise be compelled to be content with a damp basement or a draughty garret.

But I want you also to think of the immense amount of work and thought and planning that has made all this possible. To the Honorable H. H. Stevens and the members of his Management Committee goes the credit for the planning, organizing, and policy making, which has made all this possible. To Mr. Pauline and his assistants goes the credit for training the staffs and doing the actual detailed operation.

The Spanish Grill where tonight you have been our guests, has been put to splendid use. A marvellous Christmas dinner was here served to some three hundred tenants. On New Year's Eve a dance was held for the tenants and their friends. Other functions are held from time to time, all for the purpose of contributing to the happiness and contentment of the tenants.

And I should like to say that the tenants have co-operated with your Executive to a remarkable degree. We are indeed very proud of these fine young people who are making this their temporary home.

I cannot leave this subject without drawing attention to the fine dinner served tonight. Everything served was cooked and prepared in our own kitchens. The same quality of food is served in our Cafeteria at prices much below those available in restaurants. So far we have lost money in this department, but we hope to break even when the revised price schedule is put into effect.

DUNSMUIR HOTEL ANNEX

When the Dunsmuir Hotel was vacated by the Manning Pool, the Emergency Shelter Administration offered it to the Council as an Annex, and provided the necessary funds to cover renovation and to put it in condition for occupancy. Although in operation only two months the Dunsmuir Annex is fully occupied and is running smoothly.

PORTABLE HOUSING

The Council impressed the Federal Government with the importance of Portable Houses -- to be used in the actual area of operations, by logging and lumbering interests and also by mining companies.

You will remember that this was a project very near to the heart of Mr. A. P. Allison, who wished to make it possible for the men working in the primary industries to have their families live with them wherever they were working.

We are glad to be able to report that the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation has been authorized by Parliament to make loans for this purpose -- and the Council is hopeful that this will solve another housing and employment problem.

HOUSING SURVEY

In March the Council undertook to make a survey of veterans housing needs. We received co-operation from the three Departmental Stores who made advertising space available -- and the B.C. Bond Dealers who provided funds for radio announcements.

The response was somewhat disappointing as only 600 replies were received, but the information was of value, indicating the need of low-rental housing. The D. V. A. subsequently undertook a similar survey throughout the Dominion.

CHILD CARE CENTRES

The Council undertook in March to supervise Child Care Centres temporarily until other arrangements could be made. Mrs. A. E. Pearson was Chairman of this Committee and a report of its activities will be included in our General Report being mailed next week.

We are pleased to advise that they carried on this project very successfully up to December 3rd, when it was taken over by the Alexandra Heighbourhood House.

SALES COURSE FOR VETERANS

The Junior Board of Trade undertook with the co-operation of our Council, the establishment of sales training courses for veterans who aspired to make their living in the selling field. The idea of these courses originated with our Executive Director, who discussed it with Mr. F. W. Benwell.

Classes under the supervision of Mr. Benwell were held in the Oval Room and were attended by 325 veterans.

This was a very worth-while piece of re-establishment, and shows the type of co-operation possible between organizations in a Community. Many young men have as a result of these courses gone out into the world better equipped in sales ability. They are keen and enthusiastic and their prospects for success are excellent.

NAILS FOR VETERANS

You all know the desperate position home builders found themselves in when, last Fall and Winter, they were unable to purchase nails unless in the black market at exorbitant prices. Recently we learned of nails being offered at the fantastic price of 75¢ per pound. It was obvious that veteran builders of their own homes would have gone bankrupt paying such prices, so when our Council was approached by D.V.A. and priorities Branch to undertake the distribution of nails to veterans who were authenticated as genuine builders in urgent need of nails to carry on construction of their own homes -- we agreed to take on this responsibility, and space was made available in the Dunsmuir Annex.

That this has been a worth while undertaking is indicated by the fact that to date 118,000 pounds -- almost 60 tons -- have been sold to veterans holding the necessary priorities and building permits -- and every pound was sold at legitimate retail prices as set by War-time Prices Board. You can easily guess what a boon this has proven to be for these veteran home builders.

SALE OF BUSINESSES

With the flood of money released by tens of thousands of service-men recently discharged -- men who had never had so much money to spend for some years and who could easily be duped -- it is little wonder that sharpers soon discovered it was a gold mine easily exploited. More and more cases came to our attention of veterans being cheated of their savings and gratuities by shady operators. We had to make the attempt to stop these practises.

The Council made representations to the Provincial Government at the last session, that firms acting as business brokers be licensed and bonded in the same manner as real estate agents were. This measure was meant to ensure that there would be some supervision, and that regulations would be laid down governing all such transactions, for the protection of purchasers.

We are pleased to report that this was incorporated in an Act and is now a Provincial law.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Although we have maintained our interest in Vocational Training, this Department has become so well organized that our main activity during the year was a completely new departure in this field.

It was suggested to us that one of the chief requirements of men who were learning any branch of the building trades, was

to work on the job -- on something that was permanent and would be put to good use -- not torn down, as soon as it was erected.

It was further suggested to us that if we could acquire a certain number of building lots, arrangements could be made to actually build homes thereon for living purposes -- thus giving men in many building trades actual experience on the job.

This was the first experiment of its kind in Canada. Others may have copied the idea but it originated in Vancouver. We acquired the lots and houses are being built by students taking Vocational Training. When completed these houses are being sold at a fraction of normal costs to 100% disabled veterans who are carefully selected according to merit.

We want to acknowledge the fine type of co-operation between Mr. Henry Hill's Department and our Council.

VETERANS LAND ACT LULU ISLAND

In October the Council was approached by a number of veterans who considered that their V.L.A. houses were unsatisfactory. A sub-committee under the Chairmanship of the Honorable H.H. Stevens was appointed to survey these houses.

You have heard much about the deficiencies of these homes, and while our Committee found that there was some grounds for complaint, still they were not as bad as they were painted; that is as far as this particular project was concerned.

A report on our findings were submitted to the Minister of Veterans' Affairs in Ottawa, by your President and Executive Director, and the various points were discussed in detail. Subsequently the Deputy Minister, Mr. Walter Woods, and Mr. Gordon Murchison, came out on a special investigation of the complaints, and we understand assurance has been given that the complaints will be given reasonable consideration and attention.

OVERSEAS WIVES' COMMITTEE

This Committee under the Chairmanship in the early part of the year, of Mrs. H. F. Angus, and later under the direction of Mrs. A. W. McGhie, with the able assistance of Mrs. L. A. Grundy as Consultant Secretary, has done a most outstanding job.

All thoughtful people will realize that for the service man who married overseas, a wife who was English, Scotch, Welsh, Irish, Dutch, Belgian or French, that for him, rehabilitation could not be complete or successful unless his overseas wife could be assimilated into our Community and made to feel "at home". Her happiness and contentment was most important because she affected his life so intimately that his future could be made or marred by his wife's reactions in this new environment.

Thus it has been the constant aim of this Committee to make the wife feel that this is her "home" in the truest sense of that term.

There have been a few failures and these have been publicized beyond the true proportions of the whole problem. The fact is that the vast majority of these overseas wives have adapted themselves very well and are being assimilated into our Community very successfully.

In this, our Committee have played an important part. There are more than one thousand overseas wives in Vancouver. They have been visited and made to feel welcome. They have been introduced to members of Churches in their neighborhood. Their small children have been cared for in our Child Care Centres while they were shopping or snatching some entertainment. They have had

opportunities to join clubs, sewing circles, cooking classes and art study groups. The City has been organized into sections so overseas wives in every section could meet others in the same section. Everything our Committee could think to do for them has been done.

Let me tell you of a big tea for overseas wives that was held in our Spanish Grill just a few weeks ago. There were close to 1000 people in this room. While upstairs the children were being cared for, the Mothers were able to join in the fun. It was a jolly, happy occasion. There was community singing, entertainment, and tea to be enjoyed. Above all, the opportunity was given to many to meet old friends from the Old World who were meeting for the first time since they had come to this Country.

It was undoubtedly a happy occasion for all. If anyone had wanted to ask "were they happy, were they at home?" they would have found the answer written on the pleasant smiling faces. This in our opinion is a fine piece of rehabilitation, because the happiness of the wife must contribute substantially to the contentment of the ex-serviceman.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

At the year's end the Council was faced with a new and serious problem -- one that might have had tragic consequences for some thirty-five veterans. They had invested their entire savings and their gratuities with a contractor who undertook to build them homes -- homes which meant so much to them, as some were living under the most difficult conditions.

This contractor discouraged and with his health broken down over the difficulty of obtaining materials, finally threw up his hands and departed to another City. The veterans were left; some houses near completion, others only just begun.

The problem was brought to the attention of the Council and the Executive were unanimous in a decision that if possible we should do everything within our power to safe guard the interests of these veterans.

A meeting was held between the veterans and the trade creditors involved, which resulted in Mr. Cowley going to Calgary to interview the contractor and his solicitor. Mr. Cowley secured the release of all contracts, secured also the assignment of certain assets for the benefit of the group, and returned to Vancouver with books and accounts to enable our auditors to assess the operation.

As a consequence a building society has been formed made up of all the contract holders, and it has been decided to operate as a group to see the contracts carried through to completion.

While it is regrettable that such a situation should arise, it is noteworthy that this is possibly the first instance in Canada of a group of overseas personnel coming together in a joint co-operative venture to salvage a situation which otherwise would have resulted in their losing their total investment.

We wish to pay tribute to the Department of Veterans' Affairs for their fine co-operation; to Mr. T. T. Taylor, Department Solicitor, who has done invaluable work; to Mr. Edgar W. Davis of the Re-establishment Credit Division who created a set of records out of nothing at all; and to Mr. Russell Twining of the legal firm of Cowan and Twining, for his unsparing work which was of incalculable value to the success of this project; to these gentlemen go our sincere thanks for their co-operation.

CONCLUSION

As President of the Council, I wish to express my very warm and sincere appreciation for the services rendered by the members of the various Committees; to the members of our Executive, and to all members of the Council and staff.

When I was in Ottawa, amazement was expressed by Ministers of the Crown and by Deputy Ministers who were in a position to assess the job we had done, particularly in operation of the Hostel. They were impressed with the immensity of the tasks we had undertaken and the smooth and efficient manner in which these projects were operating. My answer was that what has been accomplished was not to the credit of any one man, but was due to the magnificent spirit which animates and activates everything we do.

I believe the team work displayed by our Executive is unique in that we have had complete unanimity, and once policies have been adopted, there is everywhere whole-hearted co-operation by all members of the team.

The team that shouldered all the responsibilities, decided on policies, watched and guided operations, was composed of the Honorable H. H. Stevens, Mr. Fred Smelts, Mr. W. H. Malkin, Mr. Ben Williams, Mr. A. P. Allison, and Miss Amy Leigh.

To each one goes my deep and sincere thanks for their co-operation.

Respectfully submitted,

A. E. Erickson
President.

Citizens' Rehabilitation Council
of Greater Vancouver.

HOSTEL REPORT

On February 1st, 1946, the Council undertook the largest project of any rehabilitation committee in the Dominion of Canada with considerable trepidation and no chartered course to follow.

A Hostel Management Committee was immediately appointed to deal with all problems of operation, staff personnel and regulations, which was responsible to the Executive of the Council.

The Council prepared an estimate as near as possible to the cost of operating the Hostel amounting to some \$216,650.00. To meet this in addition to the anticipated revenue, we were assured of a grant from the Government of \$60,000 which was to be used for taxes, \$24,000 a year from the City of Vancouver, \$3,000 from A.R.P. resources, and estimated salvage value of A.R.P. equipment of \$20,000 and \$10,000 granted by the Federal Government toward renovation of the building.

The cost of renovating and equipping the building was \$26,774.28 which represents an additional capital expenditure of \$11,774.28. In addition, we have not received the \$20,000 from the salvage of A.R.P. equipment. The Council had no capital of its own, therefore all expenses including additional taxes amounting to \$4,198.94, had to be met out of grants and revenue received. The Federal Government, by order-in-Council, underwrote a possible deficit up to the end of April, 1947, for some \$30,000 and it is with considerable pride that we report at the end of December, 1946, despite the greatly increased and unforeseen expenditures our net loss for the operation of the Hostel was only \$15,000.

This Hostel is an emergency shelter accommodation and we are pleased to report that over 2,816 persons have passed through the Hostel from its opening date to the end of the year, and the resident population on December 31st, 1946 was 1,204. A study of the statistics attached to this report will indicate the number of families, couples and single persons in the Hostel.

We wish to report the valued assistance given by Mrs. Gordon Selman and Mrs. H. F. Angus in setting up the playrooms for the children in the Hostel and securing the necessary equipment. We wish to express our thanks to Mrs. E. W. Hamber for her contributions toward the childrens' parties. Outstanding service is being rendered by Mrs. Dorothy Bradbury who organizes the smaller children into play groups and puts forth considerable time and effort in staging the Christmas party for the children. Your committee are grateful to these interested persons who have given such excellent and unselfish service.

The Hostel is equipped with a sick-bay under the efficient direction of Miss M. Black and we have been fortunate in our matron, Mrs. Smith; her interest and understanding has made her a valuable member of the staff.

The Executive wish to express keen appreciation for the administrative direction given to this Hostel by its manager, Mr. F. C. Pauline and to the very competent staff he directs. His technical knowledge and anticipation of problems which arise from time to time has been a material factor in the efficient operation of the Hostel. It is quite understandable that successful operation of a project of this magnitude calls for considerable administrative and executive direction and we are satisfied that in no small degree **credit** is due to our Hostel Management and staff. Mr. Harry Sanderson, our Council auditor, merits special mention for his services which have the commendation of the Council's auditors.

Hostel report - continued.

Your committee recognize that although the Hostel is operating with a great measure of success, in the year which is ahead of us, we will have to meet many and unforseeable problems, but with continued co-operation and patience we are certain that all problems will be met and dealt with and we can anticipate, as our tenants move out into their own homes they will look back with a degree of pleasure to their temporary home in this famous Hostel.

Your Committee wish to place on record that there have been many expressions of appreciation and commendation from tenants on leaving.

Respectfully submitted,

H.H. STEVENS,
Chairman.

HOSTEL STATISTICS MARCH 1 - DECEMBER 31, 1946.

<u>TOTAL NO. OF APPLICATIONS</u>	<u>3557</u>	<u>TOTAL NO. OF CANCELLATIONS</u>	<u>1632</u>
Single Men	Units	Units	
Single Women	1007	Single Men	435
Couples	398	Single Women	236
Families	945	Couples	464
	1207	Families	497
	<u>3557</u>		<u>1632</u>
<u>TOTAL NO. OF CHECK-INS</u>	<u>2816</u>	<u>TOTAL NO. OF CHECK-OUTS</u>	<u>1609</u>
Single Men	Units	Units	Persons
Single Women	414	Single Men	276
Couples	168	Single Women	123
Families	322	Couples	179
Children	474	Families	240
	<u>1378</u>	Children	372
			<u>1609</u>
<u>TOTAL NO. IN RESIDENCE</u>	<u>1207</u>		
Single Men	Units		
Single Women	138		
Couples	45		
Families	143		
	270		
	<u>830</u>		

EDUCATIONAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING COMMITTEE

REPORT 1946

During the year 1946 this committee's activities were limited due to the fact that the Canadian Vocational Training programme was able to secure the necessary accommodation and equipment which had presented a serious problem in the closing months of 1945. The Council made representations to the authorities on this matter and we are gratified to see the problem solved in respect to accommodation and equipment.

The Canadian Vocational Training services have provided the following figures and information:

	Male	Female
"In schools and training centres		
Training on the job	1015	455
Other educational training	757	3
Pre-matric for vocational training	487	131
Pre-matric for university	70	9
Undergraduates	753	32
Post graduate	4683	282
	52	1

During the year 1946 we had an opportunity to review the success or otherwise of the training programme and the result was extremely satisfactory. A survey was made of 3000 cases who had completed training with the result that we find that 60% of individuals were employed as trained, a further 20% were employed in trades allied to the ones in which they received training, and the remaining 20% either ceased training or did not take advantage of the training on its conclusion."

There is every indication that students are taking their training seriously and are endeavouring to avail themselves of the unique opportunities provided by the Canadian programme. Their final re-establishment into society on the completion of their training presents a problem which will require considerable study in the year 1947.

The Director of Vocational Training, Mr. Henry Hill, approached this Council stating that they wished to give building construction students training on the job in the actual construction of houses starting at the beginning and going right through to the finishing of the house but were unable to do so as the government could not purchase land and dispose of this property. The Council undertook to provide the necessary land, purchasing from the City eight lots on which two houses have been virtually finished. Permits for the next two have been secured. The necessary mortgages have been arranged with the Great West Life and arrangements are being made to ensure that the transfer of these houses from the veterans who occupy it to any other party cannot be carried out without the consent of the Council, as the cost of the houses to the veteran will be not less than \$1,000 below the market price, due to the fact that Canadian Vocational Training cannot charge for the labour put in by the veterans, which is in the nature of training.

This is the first project of its kind in Canada and much interest has been shown in other parts of the Dominion. We anticipate that other communities will adopt the idea.

Respectfully submitted,

E. M. WHITE,
Chairman.

HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT

Your Housing Committee have to report that at the end of the year the housing situation for returning service men presented a more serious problem than at any previous period.

As you are aware, the Council approached the Dominion Government in July of 1945 asking for 5,000 wartime houses to be built to take care of the needs of returning service personnel whose income does not permit them buying homes at the present prices and who are not in a position to pay more than \$30.00 per month rent. During the year 1946, 1200 houses were authorized and at the end of the year some 50 houses remained uncompleted. It is reported to the Council that at the end of the year, with this programme virtually completed, there are on file some 4,700 applicants for wartime houses, approximately 2,500 of whom have the necessary residence and other qualifications.

Our President and the Executive Director, when in Ottawa in November, interviewed the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and presented the problem and the urgent need for an additional 1,000 homes. They pointed out to the administration that in vacating the Hostel in April, 1948, it would be imperative that suitable accommodation must be available for the families who must be provided for. The Honourable C.D. Howe gave his assurance that, providing the City would make the necessary lots available, his administration would proceed to complete the houses, ear-marking a certain number of them for the families vacating the Hostel. It is the intention of the Council to interview the new City Council and ask for these lots to be made available to Wartime Housing Administration, some assurance having been given during the Civic election campaign that the new Council would recognize the problem and would give it their support.

In respect to supplies of building materials, the problem remains serious, although an increase in the supply of lumber is available, and we anticipate that the general supply situation will materially improve during the early months of 1947. A housing survey was conducted by your Committee in which we received considerable co-operation in respect to publicity but received only 609 replies from veterans. The survey of these 609 indicated a demand for rental accommodation from nearly two-thirds of those replying.

Your Committee is of the opinion that vigorous and concerted action by all community agencies must be made to the City Council and to the Provincial and Federal authorities to ensure that an adequate and efficient housing programme be planned and developed. The Council endorses the activities and the programme of the Vancouver Housing Association in their efforts to combine the forces of the community towards this objective.

Respectfully submitted,

LEIGH F. STEVENSON,
Chairman.

OVERSEAS WAR WIVES' COMMITTEE

Chairman's Report 1946

During the year, 1,741 overseas wives entrained for Vancouver, and this saw the completion of the mass immigration. About 1,000 are known to be residing in Vancouver. Mrs. C. S. Cameron and Mrs. H. F. Angus, both of whom made such valuable contributions to the work of this Committee as Chairmen, resigned due to pressure of other duties. The chairmanship is now under the direction of Mrs. A. W. McGhie, a chartered member. The resignations of Mrs. F. W. Smelts and Mrs. R. B. Crummy, chairmen of the Visiting Committee, were accepted with much regret. Much of the basic organization of the Visiting Committee was planned by these two chairmen. The Committee also lost valuable members when the auxiliaries to the service units were disbanded. As the number of overseas wives increased, a consultant secretary Mrs. L. A. Grundy was added to the Citizens' Rehabilitation Council staff to act in an advisory capacity and to maintain records.

Most districts have been well covered by the District Chairmen of the Visiting Committee. It has been impossible to make personal contact with all the wives, but a letter of welcome has been posted to all of them and a circular letter telling them who is the District Visitor nearest to them.

The Publicity Committee under Mrs. D'Oyly Rochfort published an information pamphlet which listed the community resources. This pamphlet became dated with the change-over from war to peace time living, so the information contained was revised and simplified further. Broadcasts over local C.B.C. and for release in the Old Country have been prepared. An article by Mr. A. Patton of the Publicity Division of D.V.A. for publication in the Old Country papers showed that most of these girls are happy in their new life and enjoy the Canadian way of life.

Mrs. Kenneth Beckett, Chairman of the Entertainment Committee has planned two most successful teas and a fashion show to which all the overseas wives were invited. For the last tea, this committee was assisted by groups of overseas wives from the clubs.

Although all overseas wives, whether residing in Vancouver or the lower mainland, have been invited to the Council entertainments, no other direct contact has been maintained in the areas outside Greater Vancouver because these other districts have functioning Rehabilitation Committees.

The formation of clubs has been encouraged. Many of these wives wish to make some contribution to community living. The first two clubs were started through the generous offer of Mrs. Haggart and Mrs. Eakins for the use of their beach gardens. Four clubs now meet in various parts of the City. To assist the Clubs to organize, the committee made a donation of \$5.00 to each club.

The work of this Committee has been greatly aided by the assistance given it by other organizations. At all times invaluable direction and assistance has been given by the Family Welfare Bureau and the City Social Service.

The Canadian Red Cross Train Service has been the first source of contact for these wives and when they encountered difficulties it was to this service that they turned. From Mrs. Mawer they always received sympathetic understanding and she made a contact for them with this office.

Overseas War Wives' Report Continued.

The community houses and two of the churches have provided a meeting place for the overseas wives clubs and have given assistance with the planning of their programme. The Y.W.C.A. provided a meeting place for this committee until the Board Room of the Council was ready for use.

The Altrusa Club, whose membership is made of professional and business women, have offered to assist overseas wives seeking employment by discussing the requirements of various jobs with them and evaluating their qualifications.

A donation of \$50.00 was received from the Women's Auxiliary to the Air Force, whose members have given assistance with the care of the children while the mothers have attended our teas.

To discover the responsibility of various agencies and to work out a procedure which would be quick and effective in cases of financial distress and lack of housing accommodation, a joint meeting was called. Representatives of the Citizens' Rehabilitation Council, the Family Court, Provincial and City Social Services, the Family Welfare Bureau, the Departments of Immigration and the Veterans' Affairs were present and a workable plan was drawn up.

The majority of these wives are well-established in the Community. Many have expressed their appreciation of the welcome they have received.

Cases of maladjustment are perhaps no greater than would be found in a group of similar age, education, and home backgrounds who are faced with the same problems. The husbands of these women are ex-servicemen who have been away for several years and are themselves faced with a period of readjustment. They have been met with the housing shortage, increased cost of living, medical, educational and other financial responsibilities which have to be met with a limited income.

Their problems are not that they are strangers in a new land, but that they have to meet and solve the problems common to all young married people - that of everyday living.

Respectfully submitted,

EILEEN MCGHIE,
Chairman.

REPORT OF CHILD CARE CENTRES

From September 1944 to November 30th, 1946.

Child Care Centres, organized in September 1944, offered a free service to the Mothers or guardians of children of men in the Armed Services and Merchant Navy. These women, in so many cases, have been left to cope alone and unaided with the difficult task of looking after a household and raising small children. At the instigation of Women's Voluntary Services Child Care Centres were established where the Mothers could leave their children in good care, and enjoy five hours of leisure one afternoon a week.

The Centres were operated under the sponsorship of the Vancouver Co-ordinating Council and with a Board comprised of representatives from the following groups: 3 from Women's Voluntary Services Board; 1 from Metropolitan Health Committee; 1 from Junior League; 1 from Vancouver Co-ordinating Council; 2 from Vancouver Council of Social Agencies; 1 from each of the Service Auxiliaries to the Armed Forces; and 1 or more members-at-large which were appointed by the Board.

The Centres were financed by contributions from the Service Auxiliaries. The personnel volunteered through W.V.S., and were assisted by HI-Y Girls after school hours. A supervising nurse was in charge of the three centres which were located in the districts of Grandview, Fairview and the West End.

One of the most satisfying aspects of this very worthwhile project was the gratitude of the Mothers who availed themselves of the services offered by the centres. This had been expressed not merely at the beginning, when the novelty of the plan was uppermost, but consistently at all Centres throughout the time of operation.

An average of 382 children from 284 servicemen's families were cared for at the centre in the Crypt of Christ Church Cathedral last year - of these 60 were children of 48 Overseas War Brides.

The Centres originally were created to meet a was need and they were carried into the rehabilitation period for one year and eight months. In May, 1946, the Centres were sponsored by the Citizens' Rehabilitation Council, under whose able guidance the Centres operated until November 1946.

It was felt by all those interested that the Centres were filling a vital need in Vancouver and great satisfaction was expressed by the members of the Board when the operation of the Centre was taken over by Alexandra House, where it is now functioning as one of their regular activities with very satisfactory results.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Pearson
Mrs. A. E. Pearson,
Chairman.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

For the first seven months of 1946 the Council office operated at 524 West Pender Street and for the balance of the year in the Hostel at 700 West Georgia. Great changes took place in the year in the type of problems and enquiries received. The total enquiries and interviews for the year were 6,506. These break down into the following broad divisions:

Housing	33%
Overseas Wives	17%
Business	25%
Legal and Marital	6%
Employment and Personal	19%

HOUSING

You will note that one-third of all enquiries related to the basic problem of shelter. During 1946 this was a really outstanding problem. 50% of all men who were single when they went overseas were married at the time of their discharge, and in a very large number of instances had families. The demand for accommodation grew in intensity during the year. Those eligible for "wartime Housing are limited to men with service overseas and who had residence in Vancouver in 1939. Many veterans decided almost in desperation to complete their own homes, despite the fact that costs were steadily increasing and materials were most difficult to secure, in spite of priorities which they had as veterans.

The Council office made use of its facilities to secure all the information it could which would assist in making wise decisions in buying or building homes. It received much co-operation from the Department of Veterans' Affairs and other agencies in the community, members of the Real Estate Exchange and the Building Contractors' Association. Housing Enterprises accommodation, which will be available early in 1947, is beyond the pocket of most veterans we interviewed as the basic rent is \$45.00 per month. Rental accommodation around \$30.00 is still a paramount need, for the average income of a veteran is around \$150.00 per month.

OVERSEAS WAR WIVES

This Council took a very active part in a programme for overseas war wives, providing a full time member on the staff for this purpose and endeavouring to assist in every way possible for the assimilation of the wife into the life of the community. To date 2,000 wives have arrived in the community and we are happy to report that the vast majority of them have become happy, well-established citizens.

During the year the Overseas War Wives' Committee under the chairmanship of Mrs. H. F. Angus carried on a very thorough piece of community work and we regret it was necessary for Mrs. Angus to resign. Her position was taken by Mrs. A. W. McGhie who has taken on the responsibility of this work with enthusiasm.

The Council wish to express its appreciation of the very outstanding work performed by the Consultant Secretary of this Committee, Mrs. Lois Grundy. She is particularly well equipped for this important work and has shown unbounded interest in the project, and rendered a unique service.

BUSINESS

Quite a large number of men contacted the Council office with a wide range of business problems. One of the most important activities of the Council has been to direct men to responsible business men on our business panel who could advise them in respect to proposed business ventures. A great many of these enquiries required a considerable amount of information such as bank reports, wholesale trade reports, information from Rehabilitation Committees in other parts of the province.

A review of the ability and the experience of the veterans involved in the projects had to be studied to ensure that there was some possibility of success if they started an undertaking. As many of them were inexperienced in businesses which they intended to enter, they were advised to take employment in that particular field until they had secured the necessary training.

Appraisals of businesses offered for sale has been a useful service that has been rendered and several men have avoided placing the whole of their resources in a venture

Executive Director's Report - continued

that has had very little possibility of success.

LEGAL AND MARITAL

Despite the factors which create difficulties in family situations due to the re-adjustment to civilian life, we consider the number of legal and marital problems coming before the office has been much lower than anticipated.

We are happy to report that some of the marital problems have been well adjusted and others have been referred to the agency equipped to handle them on a long term basis. We are satisfied that many of the family problems that have arisen during the year are due to the almost impossible housing conditions under which many of the veterans find themselves living.

We believe that the large majority of young people and their families are making a great effort to face up to adjustment difficulties and to find a permanent solution to their problems.

EMPLOYMENT AND PERSONAL PROBLEMS

During the year a large number of men who were puzzled or confused as to the career into which they should enter have been assisted in discovering the field best suited for their abilities. Again the business panel has been of assistance and all factors have been studied and the counselling given has resulted not only in them discovering their own personal capacities but the opportunities that that particular field offered to them.

Close contact has been maintained with the National Employment Service and the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Personal problems have not been as numerous as was anticipated but there has been very keen appreciation on the part of the individual men that they had had the opportunity to discuss their problems, often times at very great length, with someone who could be completely objective and make suggestions which would lead to solutions. Again even in this instance we have been well supported by interested men in the community whose experience and background was invaluable and whose sole desire was to assist the men to become established.

Although interviewing men dealing with their personal problems is time-consuming, this particular service has proven to be a most satisfying piece of work. The fact that the men have discovered that the Council is interested in their well-being has been of real assistance to them and they have expressed their thanks in terms far beyond any service rendered.

The year 1946 has been one of major re-establishment of men and their families in community life. 1947 will without doubt be a year of re-adjustment for many who will be facing up to the problems of becoming citizens. This has been evidenced in the latter months of 1946. The number who required considerable amount of case work, or personal service, is not large in relationship to the total number returned to the community but it may prove to be the most important piece of work undertaken by the Council in its committees and office.

The office staff including Mrs. Marjorie Heggie, Miss Ruth Robinson and Mrs. Laura Hayes have shown great loyalty and keen interest in their work and we wish to express our appreciation for this very fine service.

As Executive Director I wish to express my appreciation of the co-operation of the members of the Council, particularly the members of the Executive whose wholehearted interest in the activities of the Council and direction of policy has given real leadership.

A word of special appreciation must be given to our President, Major O.L. Erickson, who has been unsparing in time, thought and effort on behalf of the Council, often at much personal inconvenience and it has been an honour to have served under him and with this outstanding body of citizens whose sole desire is to see every returning service man and his family happily re-established in the community.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Heggie
Executive Director.

FE Buck

THE
CITIZENS REHABILITATION COUNCIL
OF GREATER VANCOUVER.

S U M M A R Y
of Activities.

1940 - 1948

THE CITIZENS REHABILITATION COUNCIL
OF GREATER VANCOUVER

The "Community Mobilized to Serve" has been the motto of a comparatively small organization which has carried out a unique piece of work in the City of Vancouver during the war years, and post war years.

The history of the growing metropolis of Vancouver during the last several years would be incomplete without a record of an organization composed of public spirited men and women who had only one object, that of assisting War service personnel to become successfully rehabilitated in the community.

The records of this Rehabilitation Council commence in November 1940, at a meeting in Salon "E" in the Hotel Vancouver, at which we find the following persons:

Capt. Robinson, Major Erickson, Geo. Derby,
Miss M. Bradford, F.W. Smelts & Major Bedson.

This particular meeting was called together to consider a letter received from Brig. General Foster, who was at that time Director of the Auxiliary Services. In this letter he drew attention to the need for some organization in the community to undertake the rehabilitation of men already discharged from the armed forces, and to render the assistance considered necessary for their families.

The meeting was called by the Co-ordinating Council for War Work and Civilian Services and we find that within a month of this meeting Dr. A.K. Haywood was chairman of the Rehabilitation Committee of the Co-ordinating Council.

In January 1941, this committee had progressed to the point where it had become a permanent organization with representatives of all the major veteran and social welfare agencies of the community as members. It was so composed as to provide a cross-section of opinion and experience.

They had established such committees as Placement and Employment, a special Casualty Committee to deal with men who had been disabled in the Service, and a Case Committee to deal with family and personal problems.

They had been functioning for only a few months when it was found necessary to appoint a Placement officer, and Mr. M. Ford was chosen to secure employment for discharged men and women. The National Employment Service as we know

it today was not then in operation.

The Placement and Employment committee later worked in very close liason with the veteran officer appointed by the Department of Pensions and Health. It also made a survey for the Government Department of the possibilities of training in all types of industry. This report was part of an exhaustive brief used by the Government in formulating its policy on the training of discharged men and women.

This Survey Committee was under the direction of Dean J. Finlayson with

Mr. A.W. Kennedy acting as secretary.

Throughout the whole of 1942 and on into 1943, these various committees and officers worked energetically at the problems before them, and in close liason with the officials of the Department of Pensions and National Health who were formulating a post war rehabilitation programme. Slowly the many-sided problems both as to policy and method were being thought through in order to effectively handle the tremendous task which would be facing the country when the war ended.

In the summer of 1942 our Provincial Government established a Provincial Rehabilitation Commission, and at a public hearing in Vancouver, this Rehabilitation Committee presented an outline of its activities, objectives and plans, and some very definite recommendations concerning the rehabilitation of returning veterans. These became part of the records of this Commission.

Another highlight of the Council's activities in the middle of the war years was the Dominion-wide conference, held at the Seignery Club at Montebello, Quebec. This was attended on behalf of the Rehabilitation Committee by the Chairman of the Employment and Placement Committee, Mr. A.P. Allison, and Mr. A.W. Cowley, the Vice President. This conference made an intensive study of all the proposed legislation, and made recommendations which subsequently became the basis of the legislation. Mr. Allison was one of the committee who assisted in drafting the findings of this conference, and it is interesting to record that at subsequent conferences called by the Dominion Government, the Vancouver Rehabilitation Committee took a leading part in the programmes and deliberations.

There was another problem soon to be faced, in that information showed that the number of men to be discharged in B.C. was greater than in any other part of the Dominion. In fact from the information provided, it seemed probable that the number of discharges in B.C. would be as high as double the number of enlistments. The Co-ordinating Council, on presentation of this problem, made it possible to establish an office in their quarters, and Mrs. V. Klinkhammer was appointed as secretary of the Rehabilitation Committee.

At the annual meeting in February 1944, Dr. A.K. Haywood indicated that due to his increasing administrative responsibilities at the General Hospital, it was imperative that he withdraw from the presidency, although he wished to remain on the Council. He was succeeded by Mr. A.P. Allison. At that time it was agreed that the Rehabilitation Committee should become a separate entity, and be known as the Citizens Rehabilitation Council of Greater Vancouver, although the Co-ordinating Council continued to furnish the necessary finances.

In June 1944, Mrs. G. Selman, then chairman of the Housing Registry of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, introduced to the Council the urgent problem of housing and sheltering families of men who were being discharged from the Forces. The Council recognized this need, and immediately appointed a housing committee under the chairmanship of the Hon. H.H. Stevens. From that day on the Council became a leading agency in its endeavors to find a solution for this paramount problem. Before the year was out, it became apparent to the Executive of the Council that if it was going to deal adequately with the community problems of rehabilitation then it must establish an office in the downtown area with a full time staff.

In 1945, we celebrated VE and VJ days. Early this year Mr. A.J. Cowan of the Co-ordinating Council and Mr. A.W. Cowley, who subsequently became Executive Director of the Rehabilitation Council, were delegated to attend a further conference at the Seignery Club, Montebello Quebec. Mr. Cowan served on committees dealing with the Co-ordinating Council's activities, and Mr. Cowley was appointed chairman of the Committee dealing with rehabilitation policy. Throughout the conference these two delegates took an active part in the deliberations.

Another highlight of 1945 was the incorporation of the Council under the Societies Act, and the securing of an office at 524 West Pender Street, and the appointment of a staff. The office was formally opened on March 15th, 1945. From this time on, the Council was recognized in the City as the referral centre, and the focus of the community's activities in rehabilitation. To insure the fullest cooperation and team work with both Government Service clubs and private social agencies, the Council arranged a dinner at which these organizations were represented, and a very happy relationship was established that continued throughout the whole period of the Council's activities. In fact much of the success which the Council enjoyed is due to the excellent co-operation of the Government departments and welfare agencies, who never failed at any time to offer their assistance in dealing with problems of individuals, families or the larger issues which confronted the Council from time to time.

During the summer of 1945 the Council took very active steps in endeavouring to secure from the City Council their recognition of the need for housing as a major problem. As a result of this campaigning, in June 1945, the Council sent Major O.L. Erickson and the Executive Director to Ottawa, to interview the Ministers of the Crown who would be responsible for dealing with this particular problem. They presented a specific request from the Council for the immediate erection of 5000 houses for veterans and the turning over of the old Hotel Vancouver as a hostel for veterans. The old Hotel Vancouver was then under the control of the Dept. of National Defence.

The Right Hon. C.D. Howe, Minister of Reconstruction & Supply and Mr. Ilesley, Minister of Finance were interviewed, and through the co-operation of the Right Hon.

Ian MacKenzie, Minister of Veterans' Affairs, contacts were made which resulted in the erection of 1200 houses for veterans. At the same time the Council did not cease to urge the Government to let them have the use of the old Hotel Vancouver as a hostel although they recognized that there would be many difficulties facing any organization which planned to house families with small children in an old building such as this. Throughout the fall and winter of 1945 conferences were carried on between the City Council, the Citizens' Rehabilitation Council and the Government in an endeavour to find some solution of the use of this building as a hostel, but without success. In December when the military evacuated the premises, it was turned back to the C.P.R. and became vacant.

At this time Mr. R.W. Mayhew, parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Defense, asked the Council if it would take over the old Hotel as a hostel, provided the necessary finances were made available, and negotiations were carried on with the city. However this time it was turned back by the

Department to the C.P.R. and negotiations were discontinued. On January 25th, 1946, the veterans marched into the building and took it over. Perhaps the most memorable meeting of the Citizens' Rehabilitation Council was held on the morning of January 27th when Mr. G. Derby representing the Dominion Government officially asked this Council if they would take over the tremendous task of operating the building as a hostel. Everyone realized there would be manifold problems to be faced from day to day in the operation and administration. However the chairman of the Housing Committee, the Hon. H.H. Stevens pointed out that we were mobilized to serve the community, and that there was no alternative but to take the job on and give it our best. So the task was accepted and the Hon. H.H. Stevens was asked to chair the hostel management committee which he accepted without any hesitation.

The story of the management of this building, and later on the addition of the Dunsmuir Hotel as an annex can truly be said to be an epic. The Old Hotel Vancouver

was in a very dirty condition, it had to be fully renovated and put into first class shape. The late Mr. F. Pauline was appointed manager of the Hostel, and after his sudden and untimely death in January 1948, Air Vice Marshal V.F. Heakes undertook the management and the winding up of the affairs of the hostel.

The formal announcement of the Council's decision to undertake this major project was given at the annual meeting in February 1946, when Major O.L. Erickson was installed as President. At this meeting the Right Hon. Ian Mackenzie was speaker of the evening. During the first year alone this old building housed some 4000 people. The management faced manifold problems as with some three hundred families and an average of 400 children it would have been impossible to escape them, but almost without exception it can be stated that the conduct of these veterans and their families was exemplary. Activities for the children was established under the supervision of Miss Bradbury. A trained nurse, a matron and a doctor were resident on the premises. Apart from all this, it still would not have been possible to have carried forward the project unless there had been the very finest cooperation by the officials of the Dominion Government, both in the D.V.A. and particularly from the Dept. of Finance as there was a very heavy subsidy necessary for the carrying on of the operation apart from the very nominal rentals charged the veterans.

Despite this major activity the other activities of the Council continued and there were other committees formed. The Overseas War Wives Committee carried out a very outstanding programme in their endeavour to insure that every overseas wife coming into the community would make the contacts she wished, with organizations in their own neighbourhood, and become quickly part of the community life. This committee made the war wives realize there was a sense of caring, on the part of the community. Real leadership was given by the respective chairmen of this committee, Mrs. C.S. Cameron, Mrs. C.F. Angus, and Mrs. A.W. McGhie. Mrs. Fred Smelts showed great initiative too in the carrying out of her part of this programme.

At the final tea of the Overseas War Wives committee on Valentine's in 1947, the Spanish Grill at the Hostel was crowded to overflowing with more than 600 of these overseas wives present. This was the culmination of a very fine programme, including a month by month contact with these women. The Committee was fortunate in having on the full time staff Mrs. L.A. Grundy, who was appointed consultant secretary, and who did a fine piece of work.

The Council was also requested to administer for a year or more, the Child Care centres. This provided free service to mothers and guardians of the children of the men in the armed forces, and there was an average of 400 children taken care of in the centre, which was maintained in the crypt of Christ Church Cathedral. Finally these activities were taken over by the Alexandra Neighbourhood house in November 1946.

The Council office of course continued its day to day activities by interviewing men and women discharged from the forces. The office records show that over 11,000 persons actually contacted the office, (and certainly there were at least as many phone calls) asking for assistance, advice and information. A breakdown of the types of problem on a month to month basis is as follows: 33% housing, 25% relating to business, and 19% dealt with personal problems, and legal and marital questions 6%.

The major function of this office was as a referral centre, and the staff endeavoured to analyze problems presented, and to find a solution. In this regard they received wonderful cooperation from the business men in the city, and the Government departments when called upon. There was nothing stereotyped about the functioning of this office. The staff endeavoured to come to quick solutions by drawing on the resources of the community. It enjoyed a sense of accomplishment, a feeling of satisfaction in seeing an ever growing number of men and women becoming re-established in society.

Arising from obvious needs, two or three projects were undertaken which were most interesting. Quite a number of veterans came home and wished to try salesman-

ship, but were untrained, so through the initiative of Mr. F.W.Benwell sales courses were established and more than 325 veterans took advantage of this splendid training, given to them at cost.

The Department responsible for vocational training pointed out that men wishing to learn construction should work under actual conditions, and the Council thereupon undertook to purchase 3 lots on which houses were constructed by the men wishing to learn, and were sold when completed to three paraplegic veterans. In this way the boys got their training, and the paraplegics got their homes. This was the first project of its kind in Canada.

In the fall of 1946, veterans who were endeavouring to do some repair work or to build their own homes found it impossible to secure nails. The Council undertook at the request of the priority officer to distribute nails to these veterans holding priority permits, and almost 60 tons were disposed of to men who otherwise could not get nails.

At the annual meeting held in February 1947, with Major O.L.Erickson turning over the reins of office as President to the Hon. H.H.Stevens, it was reported that the Council was to undertake a further project wholly unforeseen, which assumed major dimensions. Four building contracting firms discontinued operations, and nearly 200 veterans faced the prospect of losing their deposits and the home which they hoped would be theirs, within a few months.

The Council undertook to solve the problem. For several weeks meetings were held almost every night, and a major piece of auditing work was undertaken to endeavour to discover the exact situation. Invaluable assistance was given to the Council at this time by Mr. T.T.Taylor, Department solicitor for D.V.A. and Mr. A.G.Davies, who voluntarily did a major piece of auditing work, also Mr. R. Twining, who is a member of the firm of Cowan & Twining, the Council's solicitors.

Subsequently it was found necessary for the Executive Director to proceed to Ottawa to place the problem before the Hon. C.D. Howe, and Mr. Mansur, of the

Central Mortgage & Housing Corporation. Vancouver members of parliament were very much interested, and particular service was rendered by Col. C.C. Merritt of the Council, and Mr. Angus MacInnis. Eventually a solution was worked out, and we are pleased to report that everyone of the veterans was able to secure his home at a figure which is below the current market price. As has been stated, this has been due to the Central Mortgage & Housing Corporation accepting the responsibility of seeing that the veterans would obtain their homes. They were fortunate in securing the services of the Whitsell Construction Co. to build these houses at a very nominal fee.

Toward the end of 1946, it was realized that it would be impossible to evacuate the Old Hotel and turn it back to the C.P.R. by April 1947 according to the terms of the lease. The building of homes had not kept pace with the influx of people into Vancouver. Veterans and their families were pouring into our city and the resources of the Old Hotel Vancouver were strained beyond its capacity. There was no other place for these people to go. So it became imperative that the lease be extended for a year, and that homes be built to relieve an otherwise impossible situation.

Therefore Major O. L. Erickson and Mr. A. W. Cowley were authorized to proceed to Ottawa and Montreal to persuade the Federal Government to build a sufficient number of homes to take care of the needs of the Old Hotel tenants on the expiration of the extended lease. The Council takes pride in the fact that the tenants were not forced to leave the Old Hotel until the homes in Renfrew Heights were ready for their occupancy. The families thus provided for are almost pathetically happy in their new homes, and this fact is a source of considerable satisfaction to the Council.

A resume of the history of the Organization would not be complete without some mention of the persons who contributed to its successful functioning and operation. Mention has been made at the outset of those who launched the programme.

and it was recognized by all who took part in its inception that the far seeing and efficient planning of Miss Marjorie Bradford, Director of Welfare Agencies would go a long way in helping the efficient running of this Organization.

Dr. A. K. Haywood, certainly one of the busiest men in Vancouver gave freely of his services in the initial two years of the Council's operation. The late Mr. A. P. Allison placed the Council's activities as the first item on his daily agenda. His tremendous energy and enthusiasm for the Council's programme was a great factor in its successful functioning, from its relatively small activities to a major organization in the community

He was succeeded by Major O. L. Erickson, who gave unique service to the Council at very great personal inconvenience, including arduous trips to Ottawa, to lay before the government the problems of housing and shelter. It was a term of office of selfless service, indeed.

It is fitting that in the closing years of the Council's operation that Major Erickson should have been succeeded by the Hon. H.H. Stevens, who had undertaken the chairmanship of the hostel committee and housing programme. The Council has been under a tremendous obligation to him for his sagacious and patient direction through the most critical of its years. The directors are convinced that this particular piece of service is not surpassed by any activity that this recognized national leader has rendered during his lifetime, and the successful conclusion of the activities of the Council are in no small measure due to the constant study of the day to day problems, and a determination to bring these problems to a successful conclusion.

Each one of these men who acted as President, recognized and appreciated the loyal and effective support they received from the members of the Council, and particularly from the members of the Executive and Finance Committee.

There are few organizations in Canada that can record the fact it was never

necessary to take a vote at any committee meeting, or general meeting. Problems were openly and freely discussed, everyone's views given consideration, and a unanimous decision always reached. Such unusual results are only possible where you have intelligent, public-spirited citizens functioning as a unit -- where everyone was actuated by motives of community service -- and this was abundantly true of the members of this Council.

These men also deeply appreciated the services of Mr. A. W. Cowley, the Executive Director, who laboured for three years untiringly and unsparingly in his administrative capacity; the extremely able manner in which Air Vice Marshall V. F. Heakes, undertook and carried through to a successful conclusion the winding up of the affairs of the Council; and the competent and efficient work done by Major General Worthington in completing the Seaforth Huts.

Now the Rehabilitation Council has completed its responsibility to the community, and is about to conclude its operations. There is the realization of a score of achievements and the knowledge that when a Community is mobilized to Serve, around a team of enthusiastic and public spirited citizens, there are no limits to what can be accomplished.

ANNUAL REPORT
CITIZENS' REHABILITATION COUNCIL

524 West Pender Street - Pa. 9388
Vancouver, B. C.

February 1 - 1946

The year that has just closed has been an eventful one in the history of this Council. The first full meeting of the Rehabilitation Section of the Co-ordinating Council was held some four years ago and we find that prominent in the establishment of the committee at that time were several who are still active on the Council and have rendered great service to the community in the past four years.

The names of Dr. A. K. Haywood, our first chairman, Captain Robinson, Major Erickson, Mr. Smelts, Miss Leigh and Mr. Derby are well known to you all, and the foundations so well and truly laid by them, have made the success of this effort an assured one.

PURPOSE OF COUNCIL

The purpose for which this Council came into existence, as you know, is to assist in the re-establishment of the veteran; to render every possible assistance to the government agencies who are charged with administering the benefits and other services to the veterans, and to enable the community to undertake its full responsibility in the veterans' re-establishment programme.

This involves a personal service to the veteran in any way necessary and the focusing of public attention on problems which call for community action.

REFERRAL CENTRE OPENED

As you know, last year, your Council recognized that British Columbia was to become one of the largest centres for demobilization for the whole of Canada, and that largely due to this, there would be a heavy westward trek for many who wished to become resident here, from other parts of the Dominion.

For this reason, it was decided to establish a referral centre at 524 West Pender Street, with a staff in charge. The wisdom of this decision has been abundantly vindicated.

Over five thousand members of the armed forces have contacted this office since it was opened on March 15th, 1945, and every conceivable type of problem has been presented for consideration and assistance. The Executive Director's report will indicate some of these and the way in which they were handled.

PREPARED TO MEET SITUATION

It was indeed fortunate that the office was open and in operation before VE day and VJ day, so that when the full stream of demobilization developed we were prepared in some measure to meet the situation and render as efficient service as possible.

THE STAFF

I would like, at this point, to pay tribute to the members of the Staff whose constant interest, devotion to duty and untiring efforts deserve our sincere appreciation and praise for a difficult job being well done. I refer, of course, to Mr. Cowley, Executive director, Miss Rutter, his assistant, Mrs. Heggie and Miss Robinson of the clerical staff.

FIRST CONSIDERATION -EMPLOYMENT

One of the first considerations of the returning service man is his employment. Thousands of these men have become re-established with firms who formerly employed them, and there is every indication that business men of this community have lived up to the spirit, as well as the letter, of their obligation in giving the returning men and women a position favorable to that which they would have occupied had they remained with their employers.

EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

The Employment Committee has been under the able leadership of Mr. Morley Shier. Their report indicates that for the first eight months of 1945, their work was largely preparatory.

This consisted of reviewing possible opportunities for the placement of men in various types of industry, a work which was considered of the utmost importance and has been since justified by subsequent events.

The sudden collapse of Japan in August of 1945, and the consequent overnight closing down of many major industries rapidly changed the situation to one which challenged this Committee to instant and vigorous action.

"INVEST IN A VETERAN"

Working in closest co-operation with the National Employment Service, your Committee instigated an "INVEST IN A VETERAN" campaign, with commendable results, having secured the warm co-operation of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association and the Vancouver Board of Trade. Subsequently, the Mayor appointed an employment committee on which your Council was represented and to which Major General Hoffmeister has given considerable leadership and rendered valuable service.

PORTABLE HOUSING

Your Employment Committee recognizes the fact that a large number of men with families would appreciate the opportunity of employment in the basic industries if it were possible for them to have their families with them. To this end, your Committee strongly endorsed a proposal that portable houses be made available to the primary industries needing them, so that men could take their families with them into the various mining and logging operations.

Many of our returning married service men have had to refuse employment at good wages simply due to lack of housing accommodation on the job.

While it is true that some of the larger companies are financially able to engage in a building program, there are many hundreds of smaller firms not so financially situated.

Thus, it is the intention of this Council to endeavor to persuade the Government to finance the erection of a large number of modern portable houses, which would be allocated to industries outside the City, on a low rental basis, amortized over a period of years.

PORTABLE HOUSE ON DISPLAY

Through the kindness and keen interest in Veterans' affairs, His Honour, the Lieut. Governor, completely furnished the portable house which has been in display for some time in North Vancouver.

This house was built through the influence and interest of one of our Council, Mr. F.W. Fearman, whose efforts have been untiring in this direction, and the house is an example of what the Council intends striving for.

RECOGNITION OF THE N.E.S.

A study of the report of the Employment Committee will indicate their recognition of the outstanding service rendered by the National Employment Service here their local office and we extend to Mr. H. Keetch and his staff, congratulations of a difficult piece of work very well done.

OVERSEAS WAR WIVES' COMMITTEE

Another Committee which will become increasingly important in 1946 is the Overseas War Wives' Committee which has done outstanding work this year under the able chairmanship of Mrs. C.S. Cameron.

They have laid foundations for very largely increased activities in the year ahead of them with so many thousands of additional overseas wives which are expected this Spring in this community.

A study of this Committee's report will indicate the very wide range of their activities. There are some six hundred names on the list at the present time and four separate gatherings were held for the entertainment of the wives.

Contacts are being maintained with the wives in their respective communities and every facility is being offered to assist in their assimilation into the life of the community.

We look forward to the opportunity and challenge presented in the very large number of war wives who will be coming to Vancouver in the months ahead. It is the intention of the Committee that every facility shall be available so that not one of them will feel she is "A Stranger in a Strange Land"!

EDUCATIONAL & VOCATIONAL TRAINING COMMITTEE

Many of our returning service men come home with the realization that one of their greatest needs is for the educational or vocational training and they determine to make use of the exceptional opportunity provided for them by the government. Your Educational and Vocational Training Committee, under the able chairmanship of Mr. E.M. White, is fully alive to the problems relating to this programme.

A study of Mr. White's report will show the very large number of men who have entered the University and also desire vocational training. It is note-worthy that the University of British Columbia has the second largest enrollment of students in Canada, and Dr. Norman McKenzie, President of the University of British Columbia, is to be very warmly commended for the outstanding work carried out in prearranging for and receiving the unprecedented number of 2,975 veteran students in the year 1945.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING PLANT

The number of men taking training in the Vocational Training plant totals 1,274, covering some sixteen trades with a prospect of others being added. It was reported that at the end of December, 524 veterans were awaiting training.

Your Committee, realizing the urgent need for additional accommodation, urged upon the Government, the release of the buildings behind the Technical School, occupied by the Japanese Language School. We are pleased to report this building was made available and is now in use for the training of commercial students. However, still more space is urgently required and every effort is being made to have still more space made available.

COUNSELLING SERVICE OF THE D.V.A.

We believe that recognition should be given to the Counselling Service of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, under the supervision of Mr. R.E. Horsfield, which is responsible for handling thousands of men who have passed through the department this year into educational and trade training.

Despite the very heavy pressure of work due to the unprecedented number of applicants, this department has maintained a very high standard and our contacts with many service personnel indicate

that a very efficient job has been done.

HOUSING COMMITTEE

One of the most publicised activities of the Council of course has been the problem of housing and accommodation. To this end, a Housing Committee was set up which has, we believe, been instrumental in greatly assisting the focussing of public attention on the seriousness of the situation.

Your Committee was indeed fortunate in having as its Chairman one of the most experienced public men in Vancouver to-day, the Honourable H.H. Stevens whose long experience in the public life of the community and the Dominion has been so generously given in his outstanding service to the Citizens' Rehabilitation Council. He has been untiring in his efforts on behalf of the veteran and his problem of accommodation.

Your Housing Committee, as the report indicates, has been extremely active, and while not entirely satisfied with the results of its efforts, does consider that the focussing of public attention upon the problems to be faced in housing service men and their families is a primary responsibility of the community and that no stone should be left unturned which will ensure that every one of them is comfortably and satisfactorily housed.

The Council not only interviewed public bodies, but, as their report indicates, sent a delegation of Major Erickson and your Executive Director, direct to Ottawa to interview Cabinet Ministers, and present the seriousness of the problem of this community to them. We believe that this contributed greatly to the governments' co-operation with the City in the construction of the 1,200 veteran houses that will be completed this Spring.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

In reviewing the work of the year, we wish to report that your Publicity Committee prepared a small folder, indicating the services your Council could render to the men and their families, which have been distributed in thousands at the discharge centres. This folder has proved to be very popular and indicates in a very few words, the purpose of our existence.

EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY PANEL'S RESPONSIBILITY

Looking forward to the year ahead, we recognize there are many problems facing the community at large which calls for the interest and intense study of the Council.

It is our responsibility that we leave no stone unturned in endeavoring to find employment possibilities for men who have been out of circulation for many years.

In this regard, we believe that the work of the Employment Advisory Panel will be of even greater significance than ever before, and that their services will be even greater than here-to-fore.

This Panel is composed of some 250 leaders of Business, Industry and Labor, each and every one of whom has been untiring in his efforts to develop opportunities and place service men and women in employment on a fair scale with their fellow-man.

These leaders of the commercial, industrial and labour life of this community have worked together and individually to actually create employment for veterans, and it is expected that, despite any outside differences, they will continue to work to the common end and render even greater service in the months ahead.

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TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT

It should be our determination as a Council to co-operate with everyone in the community working for the development of industry and the providing of employment.

Undoubtedly a matter which will call for serious consideration by this Council is the question of employment of those taking vocational training. It is useless for a man to spend considerable time and educational benefits in learning a trade, or even spending years in University if there is no possibility of his becoming gainfully employed at the end of his period of training. In the year ahead of us, your Council will undoubtedly give serious attention to this problem and also to the fact that some of the most important trades are not securing apprentices in the numbers that are needed, and we propose to review this situation as a community organization.

LOW COST HOUSING NECESSARY

The question of the housing of veterans will certainly call for increasing study by your Council.

Without a doubt, a building programme of unprecedented size will be launched in the year ahead of us, but we believe that this programme should be based on the need of the community as it is quite obvious that the income of the average returning man is such that a programme of LOW COST HOUSING IS NECESSARY to meet the family needs of tens of thousands of veterans.

ADJUSTMENT PROBLEMS ANTICIPATED

As the service personnel settle down in life in the community and the glow of enthusiasm about his return home is over, there is the inevitable period of adjustment, and we can reasonably anticipate that in the coming year, our office will be in contact with a very much larger number of cases calling for assistance along these lines than was our experience in 1945.

It is fortunate that this community is well served with agencies that are equipped to deal with such problems and in this regard, one of the greatest services we can render is to be a Referral Centre, ensuring that people with personal, marital and social problems will be directed to those who are most competent and experienced to deal with them.

APPRECIATION TO MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

As President of the Council, I wish to express my very warm and sincere appreciation of the services rendered by the chairmen of the various committees; to the members of the Executive and to all members of the Council and staff during my term of office.

CONCLUSION

This Council, which includes in its membership some fifty-six organizations, representative of every state of community life and endeavor, can render a service to this community that no other agency can give to the members of the armed forces.

We anticipate with the men from overseas returning home in ever increasing numbers, their being placed in employment or training and eventual re-establishment into civilian life, that this Council's functions should be completed possibly by mid-summer of 1947 and I wish to extend to the Council every good wish for as long as it may continue to be in operation.

CITIZENS' REHABILITATION COUNCIL OF GREATER VANCOUVER

EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Annual Meeting
February 1st, 1946.

Mr. President and Members of the Council:

This Committee, which was under the chairmanship of Mr. Morley Shier until November faced the unusual situation of having very few problems in the first eight months of the year to deal with. In fact the year opened with only 485 veterans of this war unemployed. Men being discharged from the armed forces were securing employment very easily until around VJ Day the situation changed overnight with war industries closing down and the re-adjustment to peace time conditions taking place. From this point on men were being discharged in ever increasing numbers from the armed forces until at the end of the year some 3,356 veterans of this war were unemployed. This, we believe, may prove to be a peak figure and that, with the opening of activities in the primary industries in the spring, and the very considerable construction and building programmes planned in this province, the employment picture will improve with each month.

During the year one conspicuously successful piece of work undertaken by Mr. Shier and his committee was the establishment of an advisory panel of some three hundred business men, representative of the whole field of industry and the professions, who indicated their willingness to give all assistance possible to discharged personnel. This group of men have rendered splendid service and the men who have contacted these business men have repeatedly reported to the office that the very excellent advice and suggestions made have proved invaluable to them, often times assuring that they conserved their gratuities and credits, instead of dissipating them in projects which may have proved very hazardous.

A meeting of the Advisory Panel was held in October to review the whole employment situation and to endeavour to step up employment opportunities and assist the National Employment Service. A campaign to "INVEST IN A VETERAN" was launched by the Committee and it appealed to the Vancouver Board of Trade and the Canadian Manufacturers' Association to use its great influence in this regard. This resulted in six hundred men being placed in employment and there has been every indication up to the end of the year that business firms are endeavouring to place every possible man in employment, and in some instances, were creating positions over and above their actual needs to carry men on through the reconstruction period.

In November Major General Hoffmeister and Major O. L. Erickson interviewed the Mayor who called a conference and established a committee representative of the community to contact industry and create employment opportunities. This committee has been meeting regularly and your Council is presented upon it by the Executive Director and the President.

Your committee also made representations to the Federal Government that the War Assets Corporation make available all surplus materials, equipment and tools in such a manner that it would make it available for individuals and firms and so assist in employment problems among firms finding it impossible to add to their staffs due to lack of equipment which may be available from the War Assets Corporation. Furthermore the committee very strongly urged that these materials be made available to men wishing to establish themselves in business and otherwise unable to secure many of the items required.

We wish to place on record our appreciation of the service being rendered by the National Employment Service in this community. The figures released by this department indicate that they have handled the amazing total of 600,000 men and women in the past year and we can assure this Council that this Committee and

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Employment Advisory Committee Report - Annual Meeting, February 1st, 1946, continued

and your staff have received the utmost co-operation on all problems placed before the Employment Service and every endeavour to place men both in this community and other parts of the province.

The Committee regretted the resignation of Mr. Morley Shier in November due to doctor's orders, appreciating his keen interest in the problems of the returning service personnel and appreciate that he is willing to continue to serve on the Committee when physically able to do so.

Respectfully submitted,

R. J. KENMUIR
Chairman

February 1st, 1946.

REPORT OF THE OVERSEAS WAR WIVES COMMITTEE
of the CITIZENS' REHABILITATION COUNCIL of
GREATER VANCOUVER

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I beg to submit the report of the Overseas War Wives Committee.

During this last year, this Committee, originally set up by the Family Section of the Co-ordinating Council, has undergone a period of stabilization.

At the end of 1945, it was felt that The Rehabilitation Council was the legitimate sponsor as the successful establishment of the wives in the community had an important bearing on the rehabilitation of the men.

The Committee, having realized that the project they have undertaken will be of considerable duration, have endeavoured to set up a suitable policy and plan of operation.

The functions as outlined, are as follows:

1. To welcome the wives to their new home.
2. To supply such information and advice as may be of value.
3. To co-ordinate the work of interested organizations on behalf of the wives.
4. To make personal contact with each wife.
5. To arrange social gatherings where the wives may meet each other and have an opportunity to meet the committee members.
6. To endeavour to provide, should the need be indicated, instructional and cultural courses.

The lists of wives are sent to us by the Red Cross Society upon their arrival and, immediately upon receipt, a letter of welcome is mailed to each wife. Last Spring, a pamphlet was compiled and printed, which contained the information considered most useful to a newcomer. A copy of this pamphlet is included with each letter of welcome.

An Information Bureau has been set up at 524 West Pender Street and in the pamphlet, the wives are asked to contact Miss Rutter for information and advice.

The Committee is representative of all Local Service Auxiliaries and other interested Women's Organizations, and acts as a clearing house for such programs as these organizations may undertake for the Overseas Wives. Much consideration was given to the best method of personal contact. The Committee, itself, was not geared for such extensive visiting, so it was decided to set up a Sub-Committee under the able chairmanship of Mrs. Fred Smelts. The membership of this Sub-Committee consist of leaders of community groups in every part of the city. These groups have undertaken to visit each wife in their district to welcome her and extend friendship and to endeavour to interest her in the community activities. This Sub-Committee is doing important and valuable work and will constantly expand to meet the increasing need.

Four teas have been held to date: two at the Y.W.C.A., Dunsuir Street, one through the generosity of Mrs. E.W. Harber, at her home, and in November, by courtesy of the Hudson's Bay Co., a tea and Fashion Show was held in the Georgian Room. Five hundred invitations were mailed, and the response was gratifying. On these occasions, nursery care has been provided for the babies, either through facilities set up where the tea was held, or with the co-operation of the Child Care Centre at Christ Church Cathedral.

The Committee decided that it was necessary to set up a fund to meet the expense incurred by Social gatherings as it seemed somewhat unethical to use Council funds for this purpose. An appeal was made to the Service Auxiliaries and due to their generous response, we

have \$235.00 in the treasury for future needs.

The subject of the Educational Program has been fully discussed and tentative plans were made to set up a committee. A circular was mailed to each wife, calling for an expression of opinion on the type of course which would be popular and with a view to forming an estimate of the number of those interested. The response has been definitely poor. Only five replies have been received and of these five, two do not consider such courses necessary. This may be due in part, to the fact that the girls with babies have little time to attend classes, and also to the fact that British Schools usually have very complete Domestic Economy Instruction and that most large cities in Britain provide ample facilities for young people to acquire cultural knowledge. The Committee's future plans along these lines will depend entirely on the wishes of the wives, but they will be given every opportunity to avail themselves of the very excellent facilities being offered in a course being set up in the near future by Canadian Vocational Training. Miss Ester Latimer, who is a member of the Committee, is compiling a letter outlining the benefits of the course. This letter will be sent out to the wives.

The Committee has had considerable correspondence with interested organizations and Government Departments in Britain and in Canada and much valuable information has been obtained. It is satisfactory to know that the program we have established has received favourable comment.

We have learned much during the last year, and we are now in a position to plan confidently for the large influx of wives expected this Spring. The Committee will be strengthened and definite tasks assigned to each member. The wives now resident in Vancouver are in most cases, well established, and though the contacts will be maintained, they will not be included in future large gatherings. This, as can be readily understood, would become impossible due to the increasing numbers. Such gatherings will be periodically planned to welcome new arrivals.

We will continue to encourage the wives to make use of the Information Facilities at 524 West Pender Street. Miss Rutter's contacts have given much worthwhile help and on occasion, possibly averted marital catastrophes. Such cases as require the service of a Social Agency are, of course, referred.

The 600 approximate names listed, do not entirely indicate the number contacted, as some wives have moved to other parts of Canada and others, whose points of destination were elsewhere, have now become established in Vancouver. Many having recently arrived, whose husbands are attending University.

May I say in conclusion, that I sincerely regret that circumstances make it necessary for me to leave the Committee and express my deep gratitude to the members for their loyal support and to you, Mr. President, the Council Executive, Mr. Cowley, Miss Rutter, and the Staff at 524 West Pender Street, for the continued interest and co-operation which have made the work possible.

The contented, happy establishment of those wives from overseas in this, the country of their adoption, plays an important part in Canada's future and the fact that this Council is helping to accomplish their establishment, is an achievement of which we may be justly proud.

Respectfully submitted,

ENA S. CAMERON
(Mrs. C.S. Cameron)

Chairman, Overseas
War Wives Committee

EDUCATIONAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING COMMITTEE

I beg to submit the following report of the Educational Committee of the Citizens' Rehabilitation Committee.

1945 marked the end of hostilities in Europe and the Pacific as well as the complete conversion from war to peace-time training.

Specialized war training gave way to a more diversified civilian training which with the comparatively rapid demobilization placed a great burden upon the existing training facilities.

Training groups may be classified into two main classes, viz:

1. University
2. Canadian Vocational Training

The second group is further classified into

1. Pre-Matriculation
2. Vocational Training to schools
3. Training in industry

We are all aware of the tremendous load placed upon the University authorities and one wonders at the Herculean task they have accomplished. At the present time some 3,300 returned men are attending University with about 300 in waiting. It is most obvious that more assistance in the matter of accommodation must be forth-coming at an early date if the University is to cope adequately with the situation. The President and staff are to be congratulated in the sincere and helpful manner in which this problem has been faced.

Under Canadian Vocational Training there are 450 in the pre-matriculation classes at the Seaview School. 1304 have been passed for the Board for Canadian Vocational Training while 524 are awaiting training.

The following is the number of trainees enrolled in Vancouver during 1945.

<u>C.V.T. SCHOOLS</u>		<u>PRE-MATRICULATION</u>		<u>PRIVATE SCHOOLS</u>		<u>TRAINING-IN-INDUSTRY</u>	
Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
620	146	483	11	238	52	472	15
375	84	191	4	147	16	348	6
NUMBER IN TRAINING AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1945							
489 - night shift							
785 - day shift							
1274 - in class at January 30th							

Our requirements in respect to building accommodation have not as yet been satisfied. We have commenced training on a two-shift basis in some classes and by the middle of February all classes, in which it is at all possible to run a second shift, will be run on a two-shift basis.

This will cut down the present backlog to a degree but unless additional building space is provided no substantial improvement will result in the ultimate as the flow of applicants is such at the present time that the backlog will be filled up very readily.

No building accommodation has yet been provided to C.V.T. except the Army Buildings located on the grounds of the Vancouver Technical School. These will be of some assistance when they are ready but the time lag involved is the bad factor.

One of the chief difficulties in operating a training programme is that the demand for training is not stable throughout the year. In the winter months when a certain amount of unemployment exists many individuals turn to the training programme. In the Spring when employment opportunities open up the

demand for training decreases. While training is greatly in demand at the present time, the situation might quite easily change within the period of a very few months should the industrial picture become one of a labour shortage.

Schools at present in operation -

Auto Mechanics	Auto Body and Fender Repair
Barbering	Carpentry
Commercial School	Diesel
Dressmaking	Electrical
Hairdressing	Machine Shop
Plumbing	Power Machine Operating
Power Saw School	Radio Servicing
Sheet Metal	Watch Repairing

Schools to be opened in the near future -

Photography	Saw Filing
Logging Machinery	(Repair and Maintenance)

The problem of more adequate accommodation still remains unsolved.

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Respectfully submitted

E. M. WHITE

Chairman

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FOLDER NO

11-15

CITIZENS' REHABILITATION COUNCIL OF GREATER VANCOUVER

HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT

Annual Meeting

February 1st, 1946.

Mr. President and Members of the Council:

Your Committee has had a very active year. As early as March your Housing Committee interviewed the chairman of the National Housing Administration and subsequently sent a letter to the Minister of Finance urging upon him the establishment of a low rental housing project in Vancouver to meet the very serious housing problem facing the community. Following correspondence and interviewing of various authorities in May, a brief was prepared and forwarded to the Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers who were directly, or indirectly, interested in housing problems, which set forth the problem facing the community, the number of men whom it was anticipated would return to this city on their discharge, and the considerable number who had indicated the desire to live here, and the fact that the population of this community had increased by some 65,000 with only approximately 8,000 houses being built during the war period.

Subsequently your Committee requested in a meeting on May 16th that the old Hotel Vancouver be turned over as a veterans' hostel, that hutments be released on the University endowment lands for housing students at the University of British Columbia, that the Department of Reconstruction secure the necessary lands and erect 5,000 homes in 1945, these to be rented at a figure in keeping with the needs and incomes of returning service personnel and their families. They also recommended that the Department of Reconstruction exercise their authority as to the priorities of materials and equipment so that this housing project could be undertaken with the utmost speed and finally that the sale of houses erected by speculative builders be contingent upon the issuing of a permit establishing a lawful ceiling price determined by local conditions. This ambitious programme has been one of the major projects of this Council this year.

The Council called a meeting of all representative organizations in the community. The delegation waited upon the City Council on May 28th, presenting the problems and calling for their endorsement of the programme. The Council then decided to make representations to the Dominion Government and Major Erickson and the Executive Director were sent as a delegation to interview the members of the Cabinet.

The Executive Director made a subsequent trip to Ottawa at the time of the Mayors' Conference presenting information requested as to the possibilities of limited dividend companies undertaking housing projects under the National Housing Act. He was given the assurance that the insurance companies would proceed almost immediately with the construction of low rental housing accommodation with the assurance that some 1,500 would be constructed in the city of Vancouver and that the Wartime Housing would undertake additional houses for veterans contingent on the City making lots available. Subsequently 1,100 lots were made available and 1,200 houses for veterans are under course of construction and many of these will be ready for occupancy early in January, although the number of applications will far exceed the total project.

We would like to report to the Council that your Committee's contact with the Wartime Housing Administration has been most satisfactory. We are of the opinion that the veteran homes under construction by this administration are well built and under excellent management. We can assure you that our contacts with Mr. N.B. Robinson,

Housing Committee Report.

Mr. A. Tate, and Mr. J.S. Sills have indicated their very live interest in the needs of the veterans.

Your Committee has contacted officials of this administration on their visits to Vancouver and found them alert to the housing needs of the community and willing to consider additional projects if at all possible.

Throughout the fall your Committee continued to press for the occupancy of the old Hotel Vancouver as a hostel, representations being made to the Government in August and September. Alderman Corey reported that a special committee was set up and negotiations were being carried on with authorities for the operation of the hotel as a hostel as, and when, the space became available.

The City Council reported to your committee in October that they were endeavouring to contact an auxiliary service who would undertake the operation of the hostel but to that date without success.

During these protracted negotiations your committee recognized that some effort must be made to secure additional accommodation in the community for service personnel and their families due to the very serious conditions under which many of them were living, in accommodation which was notoriously bed with over-crowding, condemned buildings, garages and tool sheds.

Your Committee launched a "BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR" campaign appealing to the public to be willing to share accommodation for a period of five months, or less. This programme was eventually taken up all across the Dominion by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, but we regret to state that, insofar as this city was concerned, the results were very meagre, largely due, no doubt, to concern on the part of the house owners that they would be unable to get rid of unsatisfactory tenants, although assurances were given that some 13,000 persons have been placed in homes with less than 25 complaints being lodged with the Emergency Shelter Registry.

In December negotiations between the city and Dominion broke down and Mr. R.W. Mayhew, parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Finance, interviewed members of the Housing Committee with the proposition that this Council undertake the operation of the hotel. Your Council reported to Mr. Mayhew that it was prepared to assume responsibility of the old hotel as a hostel for such period of time as was considered necessary with the understanding that the Dominion Government provide the building, furnishings, equipment, heating, electrical power and maintenance, and a committee was appointed to work out the details of the operation, it being anticipated that this proposition was acceptable to the Dominion Government. This offer was made on December 21st. The following day we were informed by Mr. Mayhew that the hotel had been turned back to the C.P.R. for demolition.

Your Committee protested vigorously to the Prime Minister on this matter and subsequently received a wire from Mr. J.L. Ilsley, suggesting that we negotiate with the C.P.R. and that the government would be prepared to render some assistance toward the operation of the building. On December 31st the Committee unanimously referred the matter to the City Council as the only body financially able to assume responsibility for the operation of the hostel under the new conditions.

We wish to express the appreciation of this Committee to the Emergency Shelter Administration, to Air Vice-Marshal Stevenson and his successor Mr. J.G. Walker, and to Miss Fleming and her staff at the

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Housing Committee Report.

Emergency Shelter Registry for their very outstanding co-operation in providing information and their keen interest in the activities of this Council and its efforts to alleviate the housing conditions in the Community.

We recognize that we undertook an ambitious programme to meet the unprecedented need and although only some 1,200 houses will be available, nevertheless your Committee believes that one of its main functions in the community is to continue to bring to the attention of the public and of the authorities the fact that no returning service man is truly re-established until he has a home that is worthy of the name and at a figure which is within his income.

In concluding this report we point out that in December we drew the attention of the Prime Minister and other responsible officials to the fact that the operation of the old Vancouver Hotel as a hostel would provide a safety valve against possible untoward action. This prediction came true on January 26th when veterans of the Legion Post 168 occupied the building.

Your Committee, at the request of the Government and the veterans interested, have accepted the responsibility for operating the old Hotel as a hostel for a period not later than April 30th, 1947, under terms and conditions as set forth in the press.

Respectfully submitted,

H.H. STEVENS,

Chairman.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Although this Council was operating from March 15th on, the official opening of the referral centre at the present address was made by the Lieutenant Governor on April 5th. .

The number of people contacting this office in person for the year are as follows:

March	103	August	574
April	212	September	779
May	329	October	849
June	415	November	732
July	495	December	551

TOTAL 5,039.

During the first part of the year no record was kept of the number of telephone enquiries but it is a safe estimate to state that they at least equal the number of those calling personally at the office, and it is the endeavor of the staff to give the fullest possible information to the individual on the telephone to save unnecessary travel and time.

The principal enquiries were, of course, for housing and employment. Up to VJ day the enquiries for housing ran as high as 40% of all enquiries with employment only 20%. With the change over from war to peace employment enquiries stepped up, until in October, November and December, nearly 50% of the enquiries were related to employment in some phase or other.

The function of the office, of course as you know, is as a referral centre. Any member of the armed forces or his family may contact the office either in person or by telephone asking for information and is either given the information immediately, or directed to the agency or individuals that can do so.

The following are illustrations of the type of enquiries handled by this office - buying of businesses, tracing friends, business opportunities, vocational training, Veterans' Land Act information, maternity care, re-establishment credits information, personal loans, priorities for building materials, buying boats, securing business licenses, Overseas wives information, valuating properties, and business, neglected children, Union membership and insurance, housing regulations and advice, legal advice, fraud and misrepresentation, psychological problems etc.

The assistance of the members of the business mens' advisory panel is of inestimable value in dealing with many of these enquiries and the office is making increasing contacts with the Citizens' Committee in other parts of the province for information relating to business opportunities, employment conditions, businesses for sale, and housing. To illustrate - a veteran recently wanted to buy a departmental store in a remote town of British Columbia. He was introduced to the superintendent of the bank, who was able to give him a confidential report of the general business conditions in that area. He was introduced to the bank manager of that town, to the chairman of the Citizens' Committee for that area, he met three of the large wholesalers who were able to report on the particular business he proposed to buy and arrangements were made for a number of the business panel to advise him on the balance sheets of the business. This is not an extreme illustration but illustrates the service that this Council can render at the community level.

Men completing their training period in Vocational Training enquire as to the business opportunities in various parts of the province. That information is secured for them and in many instances they require assistance in securing priority for equipment, tools, licenses and are put in contact with business men who are in the same type of business and can advise them of the hazards and the opportunities they face.

Personality problems and marital difficulties and individuals who require to contact the social agencies in the province are handled by Miss Isabel Rutter, the Assistant Director. Appointments are made with the social

agencies or organizations in the community who can render the best possible service. It is not the function of this Council to do case work but to ensure the prompt referral of the case to the correct body.

When men have been out of circulation for four, five and six years, particularly those who left school and went straight into the armed forces, they return home in many instances somewhat confused as to the particular occupation or career they should take up. By interviewing them their interests have been discovered and they have been put in contact with business and professional men who have been willing to give a considerable amount of time and thought to assisting them and in many instances have been responsible for them securing employment in the field which their interest indicate. These young men have repeatedly expressed their gratitude for the interest these men have taken in them.

It is the function of the Council office to serve in an way which will assist in the re-establishment of these service men and their families. This, of course, involves attending many meetings of other organizations and speaking on rehabilitation and kindred problems. During the past year 24 meetings were addressed, 124 meetings were attended and 6 broadcasts were made, which included panel discussions and individual broadcasts.

The establishing of the office, and its operation, of course, was a venture into the unknown. The Council recognized that there would be very great need in the community for this type of service to be rendered and the planning and operation of the office had to be based on what appeared to be the work to be done. As the Executive Director I wish to place on record my sincere appreciation of the outstanding service to the Council by the Committeees, their chairmen, and particularly to the Administration Committee who have rendered invaluable service in recent months.

The office opened with Miss Isabel Ratter as the Assistant Director who has given most loyal and efficient service and undertaken a very great deal of the detail work of the office. Our first office secretary was Mrs. Vivien Klinkhammer who is now happily reunited with her husband who has returned after service overseas and to them we extend our felicitations and best wishes. She was succeeded by Mrs. Phyllis Dinsdale who served for some four months until her husband was repatriated from Hong Kong and who is proceeding to England. The Council appreciated her services and wish them well in this happy reunion after so many years.

Mrs. Marjorie Heggie and Miss Ruth Robinson are now members of our staff and I wish to express my personal appreciation to the staff for their loyalty and keen interest in their own work and the activities of the Council.

In concluding I wish to give recognition to the very unique service rendered to the Council almost from its inception, and certainly during this year of expansion, by our President, Mr. A. P. Allison. He has been unsparing in time, thought and effort, and on many occasions has made himself available to render some service to the Council at much personal inconvenience. We believe that his whole-hearted interest and unselfishness in serving this Council has been quite a factor in any measure of success the Council has enjoyed.

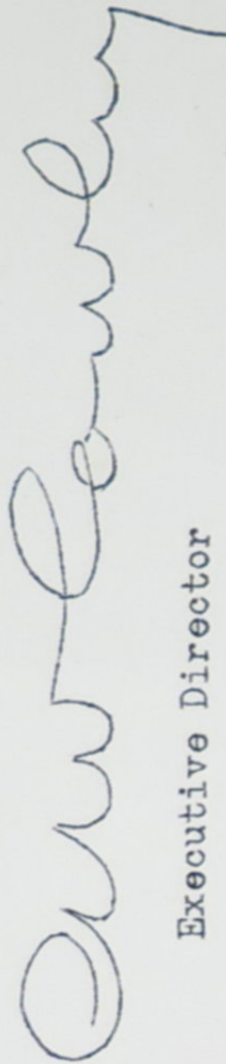
We face the future with very greatly added responsibilities, having undertaken the operation of the old Hotel Vancouver as a hostel for a period, if necessary, up to April, 1947.

In looking ahead it is not easy to foresee what will be the major activities of the Council, but it is reasonable to assume that the actual housing of return service men and women will be one of the major activities of the Council. With thousands of men back with their families in civilian life and facing the difficult period of re-adjustment we fully anticipate that the number of persons contacted in the office with marital and other personal problems will increase very considerably.

We are concerned as a Council that those who are receiving either educational or vocational training will be able to make a living in the trade or profession of their choice. No doubt the Council will give much consideration in the coming year to the relating of vocational training to the employment and business opportunities of the Dominion.

We are convinced that citizens councils of this type can render real service to the service personnel and their families and are certain that the very great interest shown by the members of the council and their willingness to serve on any and all occasions, indicates that whatever problems may face the Council and the community in the year ahead, they will be tackled with enthusiasm and the determination to find a solution.

Respectfully submitted



Executive Director

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