

### GOVERNMENT WILL EDUCATE 50,000 WOUNDED SOLDIERS AND SAILORS IN 4-YEAR PROGRAM

Congress Taking Steps to Put Disabled Men on Feet by Practical Training; 15,000 Accepted, 7,300 Training.

The Federal government is making strides to place the vocationally disabled soldier back in the economic ranks of the country, able to compete with other "whole" men and to earn an independent income for himself. The plan of the Federal board for vocational education, which has this work in hand, is a broad one, and through no actual figures are yet available, it is likely that as many as 50,000 men who served in the war will have to be reeducated either vocationally or occupationally.

Under this plan the Federal board is now working on what is practically a four-year program, through appropriations so far have been made only to July, 1920. In another month, it is promised, 17,000 men will be allowed to go into immediate training with the opening for the fall terms of the professional and technical schools of the country.

The 40,000 or 50,000 men disabled in the service of the country will all be placed in training for various lines of activity, and nearly all of them will have completed work for vocational and occupational rehabilitation by the summer of 1922. By far the majority of the men to be rehabilitated will have finished their retraining within a year or two years, some of them in less than six months, and will be back on their feet in that time in professional and industrial ranks.

So far no provision has been made by congress for rehabilitating men

whose disabilities do not amount to a vocational or occupational handicap. It is believed possible here by those best informed on reconstruction legislation that congress may yet be asked to provide some means of compensatory training, as well as the compensation that has already been paid through the War Risk Bureau to men who have simply suffered physical disabilities, without economic loss to them, in their country's service. To carry out such a program, it is estimated the Federal government would have to expend upwards of half a billion dollars.

#### Fifteen Thousand Accepted.

To date, the vocation education board has got in touch with some 122,000 men and has interviewed 119,135 soldiers, sailors and marines injured in service during the war. The majority of these will not be able to obtain retraining under the act of congress as it now stands, even with recent amendments.

All of the men more than 10 per cent disabled will receive pecuniary compensation to the extent to which they are disabled, but only those whose disabilities mean a handicap to them in the occupation or vocation they followed, or in ordinary lines of work, can be retrained and fitted for a new trade or profession. Of those already interviewed 14,876 have been approved for training and 7356 of these have actually been placed in

training. Several thousand additional men will have been approved by October and these with the men now waiting will begin their schooling when the schools reopen.

According to recent figures reported to the bureau of war risk insurance by the army, 149,422 men have been discharged from service with a disability.

"Only cases showing 10 per cent disability have been reported," the report states. "At this rate it seems probable that the total number of cases of disability resulting from the war entitled to monetary compensation will be close to 200,000."

To keep within the written law it is necessary that certain evidence be gathered from the military records and that the men to be approved be physically examined. The board announces it is making the most liberal possible interpretation of all cases coming before it. In many cases that do not actually come within the law, but where the board believes something ought to be done, it has used special funds given it by patriotic organizations.

#### Liberal Law Needed.

A central case board has been established to finally approve all cases sent in by district boards. This practice is necessary because the board is operating under a budget system of expenses from congress. This board reviews on an average 1,000 cases a day. The majority of these have to be rejected, though, if a more liberal law should be passed by congress in the future these cases would be reopened and it is supposed most of them would be approved. The documents and evidence in each case are carefully preserved, so that the expense of obtaining them again will be minimized.

Should a more liberal law authorize training for such a group of men

it is now estimated it would take at least \$350,000,000 to meet the cost of their support, tuition and text-book cost alone. Further provision would have to be made for traveling expenses of the men, medical attention and mechanical appliances and for equipment and administration of the broader law. At present the board is paying the tuition, traveling expenses, text-book cost, and other special expenses for the men it approves. In addition to paying \$100 to men with families and \$50 a month to men without dependents, and family allowances to the former class.

The board must have the men examined to find out the character of the disability, and many of them are hard to get into touch with after discharge. The board has repeatedly warned the men still in service that a little forethought on their part in securing beforehand the necessary information will greatly reduce the time it takes to deal with their cases.

#### Alfalfa Growers, Attention.

In several counties of the state, the application of land plaster on alfalfa land has increased the yield from 1 to 1 1/2 tons per acre. Soil conditions may be different in Umatilla County but its worth trying, anyway. The County Agent will order a small shipment and supervise its distribution among a few representative growers suggested by the Agricultural Council committee in each community.



#### Sheepmen Erect Silos.

Sheepmen in the west end of the county are erecting silos, generally recognized as the most progressive signs of up to date stock raising. Tom Eovien and Gardner Bros. on Butter Creek are each putting up two 150 ton capacity silos. Gulliford and Hampton, five miles west of Echo, filled their 100 ton silo last week. Several others are in course of construction. All will be filled with corn this year. The results will be checked by the County Agent for in all probability the Farm Bureau will put on a silo campaign next year.



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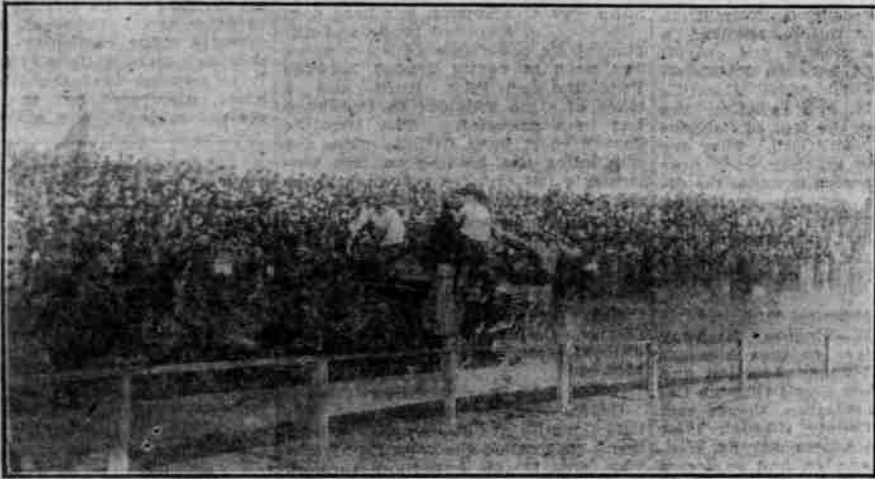


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