

ANOTHER BIG JOB

REORGANIZING LABOR NOW
THE TASK

HE placing of discharged soldiers in paying jobs is a work which is taking all the energies of the Department of Labor and which is sending a call for co-operation into every community.

Director V. J. Brawley, of the federal employment bureau, is heading up the organization in Charlotte. He is being assisted by a civilian group, which has heeded the appeal from Washington that every camp center make a special effort to help solve the problem of caring for the soldiers which leave the tents and barracks.

Many of the soldiers being discharged from Camp Greene are being returned to their home states in contingents, Mr. Brawley explains, not being released from military authority until their arrival there. This is in order to get all men discharged back to the section from whence they came in as many cases as possible.

It is urgent that this be done, too, he said, because it would be unwise to allow men to congregate in any one city. Here in Charlotte, for instance, the first of the 1,500 or 2,000 of the soldiers from this city are returning home. Jobs must be found for them and for all who come at later dates. With a large floating population of young men discharged from the service seeking employment it would be a difficult problem to locate jobs for the local boys.

Whereas five months ago the labor situation was such that efforts were being made to bring men here, the danger exists of there being more men than jobs here in the future unless proper steps are taken to get discharged soldiers back to the section whence they came and get positions for them, it was pointed out.

MEN SHOULD RETURN HOME

Washington, D. C., Dec. 18.—The Department of Labor asks The Caduceus to aid in carrying the message to the men in the camps that they should go home after discharge where they will find their friends and townspeople organized to help them through the local bureaus.

We ask your help to put this program across. There is an economic appeal, as well as the patriotic and sentimental appeals. Demobilization comes during the winter months when under normal conditions out-door work is slack.

The reconstruction program of the Employment service links up all national and local efforts, both governmental and private, and centralizes in every community through these local bureaus, all information as to proper openings in industry, commerce, and agriculture available to the Nation's fighters and war workers. It calls for assisting them to the best work the country can give them, the individual's qualifications being considered, and for sending as many men as possible to the farms.

Since most soldiers are expected to go to their home communities—and should be encouraged to do so—the task of aiding them in finding work is primarily a community responsibility, and the local bureaus enable its discharge.

PROGRAM ADOPTED

The program has been approved and adopted by the Secretaries of the War, Navy, Interior, Commerce, Agriculture, and Labor Department, sitting as the members of the Council of National Defense. In the same capacity, these cabinet officials most concerned with demobilization have taken steps to keep intact the field machinery of the defense council so that it may be utilized by the Department of Labor and its Employment Service in carrying out the replacement program. Their action brings to the Employment Service's aid a total of 184,000 local units, among them being the state councils, 4,000 community councils, and 16,000 women's organizations.

CENTRAL BOARD AT
WASHINGTON

Representatives of the welfare and other private organizations and the government agencies compose a cooperative Central Board at Washington, through which a complete pooling of all efforts to assist soldiers and war workers to employment has been effected. Nathan A. Smyth, Assistant Director General of the United States Employment Service, is chairman. In addition to the welfare or-

ganizations, the board includes such bodies as the American Council of Education, interested in having college students in the camps return to complete their course; the General Staff of the Army; the Federal Board for Vocational Training, charged with training and placing crippled soldiers; and other agencies.

The state and community councils of the Council of National Defense have joined with the Federal directors and the community labor boards of the United States Employment service in inviting the local bodies in every community to form a management board which will direct the activities of the local bureau for returning soldiers. The manager of each bureau will be a representative of the Employment service and the forms and records of the service will be used. The service's clearance system also will be utilized to enable interstate and intercommunity exchanges of information as to employment openings.

The soldiers let go are being mustered out on a few days' notice, with no advance of pay, given in money the cost of transportation to their homes, free to buy tickets wherever they please. Already they are turning up in the cities, improvident, "broke," away from home, without work, applicants for civilian relief. Many of them don't want work yet. Many others are unwilling to undertake the "day-labor" jobs, which alone they can find. There is every prospect, that unless remedial measures are promptly taken the sight of stranded, workless, moneyless soldiers will be common throughout the land.

SOLDIERS ARE BETTER MEN

"For the most part," he said, "the men in the army are better men and are capable of better work than before the war. Many have had valuable technical training since they entered the army. They will not want to go back to their old jobs and it would be a misfortune if they did."

"Economic considerations—not to speak of the debt the country owes to each of these men who offered all to it—demand that the men in the army be given individual attention. This is one of the functions of the community bureaus for returning soldiers, sailors, and war workers."

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