

Some Accomplishments of the Department of Industrial Rehabilitation

Working Through the Vocational Education Division of the State Department of Education, Many Handicapped Persons Are Being Restored to Places of Usefulness in Society and Placed on the Road to Self-Support and Independence.

(By H. L. Stanton, Supervisor of Industrial Rehabilitation.)

RALEIGH, May 8. — Rescuing the welfare of the broken humanity from the junk heap and placing it in the best position for developing productive units of society to be familiar with local conditions. It is the province of these local bureaus to become charges upon their respective communities—this is the function of the department of Industrial Rehabilitation, which is being administered through the division of vocational education in the State Department of Education.


If the department functioning in the manner to that question will be of interest to every North Carolinian.

The work of the department of industrial rehabilitation was made possible through a Congressional appropriation to be distributed among the states, each state being required to accept the provisions of the act and match the portion of Federal appropriation available for such state. The apportionment for North youth at Lumberton. The local bureau

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Blind Men Making Themselves Proficient in Trades at the School Conducted at Wilson, N. C., by the Industrial Rehabilitation Department of the Board for Vocational Education.

Carolina was \$24,399.91. The General Assembly of this state matched this appropriation and in addition set aside \$5,000 per year for two years for the maintenance of indigent applicants while they are learning a trade.

The forms of rehabilitation are several, including physical restoration, the provision of prosthetic appliances, the securing of employment for untrained handicapped persons, employment training, and training through institutions, tutors and correspondence.

Work Gets Under Way.

The work of industrial rehabilitation in North Carolina was started July 1, 1921, under the direction of Supervisor H. L. Stanton. Since that date more than 300 cases have been reported to the

oring to support his family, consisting of an invalid wife and nine children, the oldest of whom is a 17 year old girl, by farming on rented land. When the depression came he lost his farming equipment as well as his small savings and was without an income or means of supporting his family.

An artificial arm with a utility hook enabled him to capitalize his experience of previous years in handling machinery and he secured employment in a box and crate factory. His work consists of keeping all machinery in the factory in repair and in operating some of the machinery at times. The appliance furnished him by the department has enabled him to fill all requirements of the job. He supplements this income by clerking in a local grocery store on Saturday afternoons and evenings.

Placements Training.

One of the most effective activities of the department has been in placement training. In many instances arrangements have been made with offices, shops, factories, or stores for the training necessary to fit handicapped individuals for the occupations for which they were best suited. In most cases of this nature the individuals are enabled to remain in their home communities and home environments. This activity has the further advantage of being of an exceedingly practical nature. The training is generally of short duration and in most instances a job is ready for the individual by the time he has finished the necessary training, the training thus leading directly to employment and independence. Necessarily in these cases the education, former experience and inclination of the applicant and employment conditions in the community are determining factors.

From Uselessness to Independence.

Claude R. was one of a family of children orphaned and distributed like kittens among the neighbors 24 years ago. He was afflicted in early youth and has not been able since that time to stand on his feet for any length of time, and walking has always been a hardship. Notwithstanding his affliction he had succeeded in getting through the eighth grade in school. Although 26 years of age the only work that he was capable of doing was carrying in wood and water and doing other little chores at the home of a good farmer who was caring for him. He had wanted to be a linotype operator and had applied at a number of printing establishments for an apprenticeship but had failed.

The department of rehabilitation after an investigation of this case succeeded, with the co-operation of the county welfare officer, in making arrangements with a small job printing office to give him the desired training, the department paying the cost of his maintenance while he learned the trade. While receiving this placement training he attended a Y. M. C. A. night school and received instruction in English, the Y. M. C. A. presenting him with a membership. At the end of three months he was able to take over the operation of a machine and at the end of five months employment was secured for him in the largest commercial printing establishment in one of the largest cities in the state.

Trades For The Blind.

Little has been done in North Carolina in the way of institutional training. In the first place few suitable courses are given in state institutions and such training, with maintenance, is long drawn out and expensive. One young man who lost an arm in the accidental discharge of his gun while guarding convicts is taking a course in book-keeping

in a business college at Charlotte and is well up toward the end of his course.

Another instance of institutional training is being successfully carried out at Wilson. The county commissioners offered the department space in their new county home for a vocational school for the blind, together with accommodations for the pupils. The department pays for the maintenance of the men and women at present taking training in dress making, chair making, heavy basket-



Miss Bessie Cole Was Formerly Able to Perform Only the Simplest and Easiest Household Tasks—Through Training She Was Developed Into a Popular Dressmaker Who Has All the Business She Can Handle.

ry, typewriting and reading revised Braille.

This school is in charge of a graduate of the State school for the blind who has had two years experience as a teacher and several years practical experience in work applicable for the blind. Since this school was established the pupils have made over 30 mattresses, mounted 14, covered a dozen chairs, and made several baskets and they are becoming constantly more proficient in all of their work. The co-operation of Welfare Officer S. A. Leonard in this undertaking has been invaluable.

In Some Instances Tutors Are Being Employed To Advantage.

Miss Bessie Cole is the daughter of a



Mr. H. D. Smith, Afflicted With the Loss of a Hand, Was Almost Down and Out—Today He is Supporting in Comfort His Family, a Wife and Nine Children.

tenant farmer in Richmond county. An attack of pneumonia when she was 12 years of age resulted in the amputation of both hips. Through the beneficence of

the King's Daughters an operation was performed some years later which restored one hip. Miss Cole used crutches and had been able of course to do only a limited amount even of house work. Owing to her meagre education and the nature of her disability she was limited in the number of vocations for which she might be trained, and was pleased under the training of a capable dressmaker for three and a half months.

Miss Cole is now a trained dressmaker with all the work she can take care of and with a sufficient income to make her independent of assistance from relatives and friends of the community. It is interesting to note incidentally that the operation of a sewing machine has greatly improved the condition of her hip and she is now able to walk with a cane in place of a crutch.

Correspondence courses are used in the rehabilitation work to some extent. One handicapped young man at Rockingham who has a mechanical turn is taking a correspondence course in mechanical drawing. A prominent young mill man of the community, an A. & E. Graduate, is giving the boy four hours instruction a week and is lending him his own drawing outfit.

Handicapped Man Gets His Chance.

The department of industrial rehabilitation is making good. It is accomplishing a work which is tremendously worth while, both from a social and an economic standpoint. The handicapped man need no longer look to charity. If he is intelligent and in earnest, means are available through which he may secure training and work out his own salvation.

And after all, in the last analysis, this work is in the same category with all other lines of public instruction. In a way it is even more important than ordinary school work because it is making staunch, useful citizens of non-producers who, in some instances at least, have been led toward pauperism.

DAVIDSON LEAVES AN ESTATE OF MILLIONS

NEW YORK, May 7. — (Close friends of the late Henry P. Davidson who died yesterday from an operation for brain tumor estimated today that the financier left an estate of about \$10,000,000. He carried a large amount of life insurance, but the figure has not been ascertained. Mr. Davidson's public benefactions were large.

Excessive men of the House of Representatives are determined to investigate the alleged illegal fraudulent transactions of the War and Navy departments and to see that prosecutions are waged to bring to justice these individuals who by technical means or otherwise defrauded the government of large sums of money during and after the close of the war," says an announcement made at Washington by the legislative committee of the American Legion. Two House committees have been appointed to investigate all contracts and expenditures made by the two departments.

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The Industrial Rehabilitation Department Aided This Man, Formerly Almost Helpless, to Become a Linotype Operator and a Productive Self-Supporting Member of Society.

department and Mr. Stanton has personally surveyed over 100 of them. More than 50 individuals have already been started on the road to economic independence. The work has assumed such proportions that Paul J. Ransom, of Hentersville, has recently been appointed as assistant to Supervisor Stanton.

In order to further facilitate the work, reduce expenses of administration, and at the same time obviate much delay in the handling of cases, local rehabilitation bureaus are being formed in each county. These bureaus are being constituted of business men and others familiar with employment conditions and requirements, public spirited women, physicians, and

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