

FIND JOBS HERE FOR 361 HEROES CRIPPLED IN WAR

U. S. Handicap Division Reports Success in Helping Men.

Positions have been found by the Illinois handicap division of the United States employment service, for 361 crippled soldiers who were wounded while with the American expeditionary force in France.

Those for whom places have been found include men with weak hearts, as a result of German gas attacks; others with ribs broken by shrapnel; men with only one arm and one leg, and others with neither arms nor legs. Some are partially blind, and many are victims of shell shock.

Victor T. J. Gannon of Chicago, who was recently made national director of the handicap bureau of the United States department of labor, said rapid progress is being made in the east in finding places for injured soldiers.

Find Places for Many.

"For several weeks I have been organizing handicap bureaus in the eastern states," said Mr. Gannon. "During the first week of work in Massachusetts we placed eighty-nine handicapped and elderly men and women. During the second week the number increased to 466. During the first week there were 111 placements of this type in New York; the second week, 761. This shows how well the idea is taking hold.

"In addition to this, we have organized handicap bureaus in twelve other states. I have visited the hospital receiving stations at New York and Boston, to which all disabled and sick soldiers are taken on their return to this country. Without exception I have found that the returning soldier who has been wounded is cheerful and ambitious in spite of his disability. Most of them see no reason why they cannot go right back to their old places. In fact, the wounded men are proud of their disablement.

Cheerful Though Maimed.

"In New York I saw one man in a basket who had lost both legs, both arms, and one eye. He was a young lawyer before he went to the front. When I talked with him he was cheerful, full of ambition, and was planning to go on with his work. It is probable he will find a way to do this.

"Most remarkable cures of shell shock patients have been brought about in unexpected ways. Shell shock somewhat resembles nervous prostration, yet some of the patients have been cured by working in boiler factories.

"We have had no difficulty in placing these men, who do not displace other workers. This is where a strong common sense patriotism is coming to the front. It is not the kind of patriotism that shows itself in outbreaks that resemble hysteria, like the peace celebration, but is something that will last.

To Retain the Old.

"The fully realized satisfaction given by women and elderly men will be recognized by the retention of these individuals in their present positions. The gray haired man and woman in industry have come to stay, not because of their wage being lower than the established scale but positively because the employing body now realizes the worth of experience and loyalty which age will bring and the capacity and unusually high production which has been evidenced by the woman worker."

Mr. Gannon was formerly manager of the employment bureau of the Employers' Association of Chicago, which found places for more than 25,000 men who were more than 45 years old. The success of this work caused Mr. Gannon to be appointed national director of the work on behalf of injured soldiers, the idea for which originated in the Chicago campaign. The Illinois division headquarters are at 60 East Randolph street, Chicago.