

## U. S. TO REMAKE WAR BROKEN MEN

[BY A STAFF CORRESPONDENT.]

Washington, D. C., July 4.—[Special.]—How to make a soldier who has lost a leg, an arm, or an eye in the great war, regard his injury in the end as a blessing, however well disguised, is the problem which will be discussed at the conference of national and state boards for vocational education, here next week.

The administration of the Smith-Sears act, under which congress authorized last month the work of re-equipping for civil life wounded American soldiers and sailors, has been intrusted to the federal board for vocational education. The conference called for July 11 by Dr. C. A. Prosser of Minneapolis, director of the federal board, is for the purpose of mapping out a definite program which will not interfere with the work already being done under the Smith-Hughes act for the extension of vocational education in agriculture, trade, home economy, and industry in the various states.



There will also be discussed the war emergency work, which has been in progress under the direction of the federal board since last fall, by which radio and buzzer operators, oxy-acetylene gas and electric welders, gas engine mechanics and operators, electricians, telegraph and telephone repair men, aviation mechanics, ship-builders, and others, have been trained for the army and navy.

Something like 500,000 enlisted men have been trained in the last year under the direction of the federal board.



To the work which has already been done the federal board is now to add that of the rehabilitation of the wound-

ed and disabled men, a number of whom already have been brought back from France. In this work they will have the benefit of the experience of T. B. Kidner, vocational secretary of the invalided soldiers' commission of Canada, who has been loaned by the Dominion government to assist in organizing the work in this country, and of a group of thirty men appointed by the board who have had a two weeks course at the Red Cross Institute for Crippled and Disabled Men in New York, followed by a four weeks' trip through Canada.



Every man who returns to the United States so badly wounded or disabled that he finds himself unable to resume his former occupation or to enter upon any other equally suitable or remunerative calling may avail himself of the vocational training offered him under the terms of the Smith-Sears act, for the administration of which congress made an initial appropriation of \$2,000,000. While undergoing training a man, although no longer in the military or naval service, will be paid at the rate of his last month's pay while on active duty, and his family will receive the government allowance provided under the war risk and insurance act, precisely as if he were still in active service.

When he completes his course agencies will be ready to assist him to find a position at which he will be able to make as much or more than before.

In Canada crippled and disabled men are now being trained in ninety-seven different occupations. Men who are unable to enter any line of their former trade or occupation are trained in an allied industry if possible and frequently a round peg is rescued from a square hole.