

whether for business, farm, or dwelling, carries its own problems, and it is therefore pleasing to note that by far the great majority of ex-servicemen assisted to date are proving successful and are rapidly becoming firmly established. The relatively few failures that have occurred have been due mainly to the personal element, either the borrower being temperamentally unsuited to the particular venture or revealing poor managerial capacity rather than to the proposition itself being economically unsound.

The table hereunder shows the aggregate numbers of loans and amounts authorized from June, 1941 (the inception of rehabilitation policy), to 31st March, 1948. As a record of substantial and successful rehabilitation it requires little elaboration:—

Type of Loan.	Number.	Amount. £
Tools of trade .. ..	1,188	38,806
Furniture .. ..	28,429	2,613,360
Business .. ..	5,940	3,650,719
Farms .. ..	4,716	19,237,489
Houses .. ..	20,194	23,752,605
Miscellaneous .. ..	312	67,980
Stock (R.I.C.) .. ..	350	296,301
<b>Totals .. ..</b>	<b>61,129</b>	<b>£49,657,260</b>

Included in the amount shown above is the sum of £1,742,587, representing the total authorized by way of supplementary interest-free loans to 31st March, 1948. As indicated in previous reports, no interest or principal repayments are required in respect of these loans whilst the ex-serviceman borrower remains the owner occupant of the property.

Ex-servicemen have entered into almost every phase of business life from taxi transport to inter-colonial freight shipping, from bootmaking to hotel ownership. In a necessarily condensed form the following table shows, under classified headings, the various types of business loans authorized:—

#### *Classification of Business Loans*

Number.		Total. £	Number.		Total. £
Butchery .. ..	142	115,815	Taxi, service car, and transport .. ..	794	446,227
Grocery and general store .. ..	445	356,801	Carrier and mail contractor .. ..	953	672,030
Bakery, dairy, refreshment-rooms .. ..	302	202,454	Hairdresser and tobacconist .. ..	83	37,655
Milk-round .. ..	172	128,916	Bootmaker .. ..	128	38,869
Building trades .. ..	437	225,385	Painter and paperhanger .. ..	144	44,927
Mechanical repairs .. ..	296	178,351	Launch and fishing gear .. ..	81	50,598
Manufacturing business .. ..	209	140,438	Agricultural contractor .. ..	348	249,033
Stationery and fancy goods .. ..	85	60,825	Chemist .. ..	24	25,130
Eggs, poultry, &c. .. ..	40	25,668	Miscellaneous .. ..	435	264,870
Professional equipment .. ..	656	290,704			
Radio dealer and electrician .. ..	136	70,048			
Hotel and guest-house .. ..	30	25,975	<b>Total to 31st March, 1948</b>	<b>5,940</b>	<b>£3,650,719</b>

All loans are granted on terms providing for reasonable repayments over a number of years determined by the Rehabilitation Loans Committee or the District Executive Committee in relation to the type of asset and the estimated profit-earning capacity of the particular business. In many cases borrowers have found it possible to increase their instalments, thus reducing the loan term and clearing their liability in a shorter period than that originally fixed. On the other hand, through temporary setbacks due to ill health, shortage of supplies, or some other factor outside the borrower's control, it has been necessary in some cases to ease the rate of repayment. Such cases are considered sympathetically by the Committee concerned, and, where warranted on the facts, appropriate relief is extended.