

No Need to "Panhandle," Says Army Man Who is Training Disabled Service Men

In his work throughout the country in behalf of discharged service men Colonel Arthur Woods, Assistant to the Secretary of War in charge of finding employment for demobilized soldiers, sailors and marines, has learned that in many sections people generally do not know just what the Government is doing to enable men disabled in the line of duty to reestablish themselves in civil life.

Inasmuch as the Government took these men out of civil life and placed them in camps and in the trenches where their disabilities were incurred, the obligation upon the Government to re-establish them in civil life is clear. And it should be understood that those injured in France are not the only ones entitled to assistance, for all disabled service men, whether injured in the United States, or abroad, are provided for equally.

For re-establishing the disabled in civil life, the authorized agency of the Government is the Federal Board for Vocational Education which is charged by Congress with the "vocational training of disabled soldiers and the placement of rehabilitated persons in suitable and gainful occupations," after their discharge from the army.

The Government, it will be noted, not only trains the disabled man, thus enabling him to assume again with unimpaired efficiency, the responsibilities of civil life, but also assists him in securing employment at the end of his period of training.

In some large cities crippled men are seen on the street engaged in "panhandling" kindly disposed persons. It has been found that in nearly every case these men were just ordinary fakirs in the guise of soldiers, who took this method of enlisting unmerited sympathy from the public. There is no excuse for these fakirs. No man disabled in the service need engage in any sort of hold-up game on the streets nor need he engage in any occupation whatever which is not becoming to him. Anyone seeing men in uniform so engaged should inform them of provision made for their training and any man after being informed what placement by the government. If his opportunities are continues his game a favor will be done the great body of self-respecting disabled men who are trying to make something of themselves, if every case of this character is reported to the nearest branch office of the Federal Board for Vocational Education.

If any disabled service man is considered by the Bureau of War Risk Insurance to be as much as 10 per cent disabled, will get in touch with the Federal Board for Vocational Education, Washington, or with any one of its fourteen branch offices, the Federal Board will place them in educational institutions when education is necessary and feasible, where suitable trades or occupations will be taught them according to their individual experience, capacities and preferences. A disabled man so incapacitated that he cannot take up his old occupation will be allowed to choose any occupation or trade which he thinks he would like to follow, subject, of course, to approval by the Federal Board, which is interested only to be assured that the man is fitted to pursue the occupation or trade elected.

While in training a man receives an amount equal at least to the base pay received during his last month's service in the army, navy or Marine corps, but in no case does he receive less than \$65 per month if a single man, or less than \$75 per month if living with his dependents, or less than \$65 per month for himself if living apart from his dependents—in addition to allowances to his dependents if married and living apart from his wife during the period of training. In all cases the wife receives \$15, and each minor child \$10 a month. These payments are made to enable the man to support himself while in training, and are in lieu of subsistence, etc.

Under the arrangement first mentioned, if a man who served as a private at \$30 per month, wishes to take training, waiving claim to subsistence, clothing, etc., he will, if single or living apart from his dependents during training, be allowed an additional \$35 per month by the Federal Board, thus bringing his income to the minimum of \$65 per month. On the other hand, should the man have been a non-commissioned officer during his last month's service, and have received as high as \$81 per month, he will then continue to receive such pay and it will, of course, not be necessary in this case for the Federal Board to allow him anything additional. In the case of officers, it will be apparent, no allowances will be forthcoming from the Federal Board. Men who have been blinded in battle or who have lost both arms or legs, or who as a result of injuries incurred are permanently and totally disabled, it may be noted, come under a special provision which allows them \$100 per month additional.

Many crippled soldiers were dis-

charged without being informed of the provisions made for them through the Agency of the Federal Board, because they were released from service before the machinery for reaching them was in effect. Any person coming in contact with such disabled men will be doing a patriotic duty by directing them either to write to the Federal Board at Washington or to one of the Board's fourteen branch offices, or, better yet, to appear in person at one of these offices if they can.

It is very important that the disabled man shall be made to realize fully the advantage of taking training to insure his future welfare. At the present time there are many patriotic employers of labor who are willing to take on disabled men whether they are really capable of performing their duties or not. But don't forget that in a few years the work of the really efficient man will tell and he will be the one who will get ahead.

For this reason the Federal Board is doing everything in its power to train and equip the disabled man immediately upon his discharge, so that he will be a thoroughly competent man in whatever line he elect to follow.

In the event courses commenced prove for any reason unsatisfactory or not suited for the particular disability of the person undergoing training, another course will be offered, for the work of the Government never ceases until the disabled man is permanently placed in a suitable and remunerative position.

It should also be understood by all who have lost a limb in the service in the line of duty, that it is the duty of the Government, through the agencies of the War Department and the War Risk Insurance Bureau to supply them with artificial limbs and appliances. When a man is discharged from the hospital he is given a limb which is a temporary affair only, and later on he is furnished with a permanent first-class artificial limb. To make this provision is not a charity but an obligation on the part of the Government toward this class of disabled.

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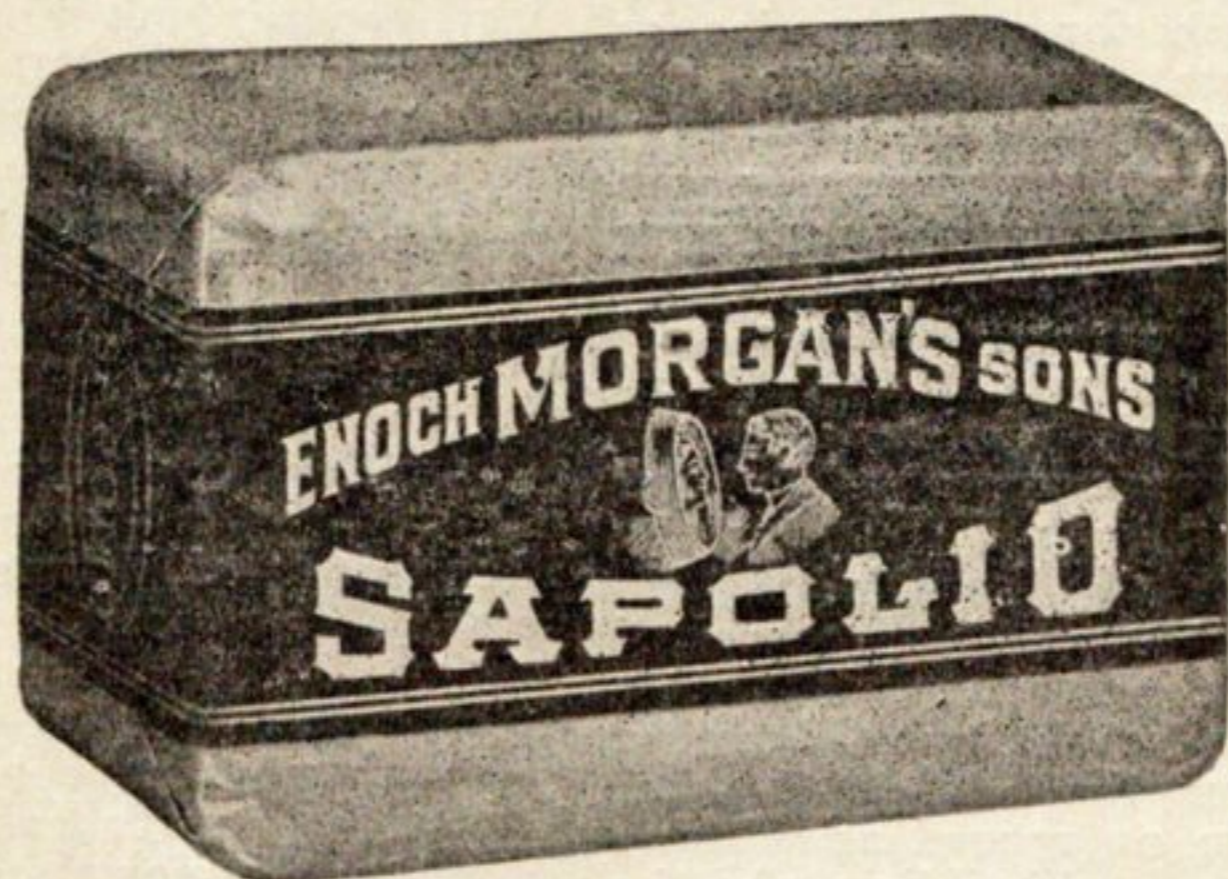
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