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TRAINING DISABLED SOLDIERS.
MEETINGS AT CHICHESTER AND
BOGNOR.

Meetings were held on Monday at Chichester and Bognor, under the auspices of the War Pensions Local Committee, for the purpose of enabling employers of labour to consider the question of labour in connexion with the training of disabled soldiers and sailors.

The Chichester meeting was held in the Council Chamber and was presided over by the Mayor (Alderman Garland), many representative tradesmen being present.

The Rev. W. D. Yoward, as Chairman of the Pensions Committee, explained that it was intended to eliminate to the fullest extent casual labour among ex-service men, preventing them from taking blind-alley occupations, and encouraging them to qualify for some business or trade. It was hoped to keep Sussex men in the county and as near their wives and families as possible; and the co-operation of employers was required to enable the work to be done.

Captain H. H. C. Baird, of the Pensions Ministry, who attended on crutches, described the scheme for training, and said that when a man started training his pension was increased, to the full home rate of 27s. 6d. per week; if he left home he also drew a separation allowance for his wife. He also received a bonus of 5s. 6d. per week to the end of his training if satisfactory. The employer could give him whatever commercial value he thought he was, but this made no difference to his State pay. They wanted facilities for training.

With a view to preparing a list of local employers who will give such training facilities as are required the following Committee was formed:—

The Mayor, Messrs. H. S. Aylmore, H. Faith, J. O. Holt, J.P., J. R. Hobbs, L. Heaver, T. E. Jay, F. J. Lobley, T. N. Ritson, G. P. Shippam, R. V. Weare, and P. T. Wingham.

At a meeting held at Bognor in the morning Captain Baird and the Rev. W. D. Yoward attended, and it was resolved that a Committee be formed, consisting of members of the Council and employers, to be chosen at a future meeting, to inaugurate and work the scheme.