

**Pensions for Blind Persons.**—By an amendment to the Old Age Pensions Act in 1937, provision was made for the payment of a pension to every blind person who, at the date of the proposed commencement of pension:—

- (a) is, and continues to be, so blind as to be unable to perform any work for which eyesight is essential;
- (b) has attained the age of forty years;
- (c) is not in receipt of a pension in respect of blindness under the Pension Act, or an allowance in respect of blindness under the War Veterans' Allowance Act;
- (d) is:—
  - (i) unmarried, or a widower without a child or children, or a widow without a child or children, and is not in receipt of an income of as much as four hundred and forty dollars a year, or—
  - (ii) married, or a widower with a child or children, or a widow with a child or children and is not in receipt of an income of as much as six hundred and forty dollars a year; and—
- (e) fulfils the conditions laid down in paragraphs (a), (c), (d), (e) and (g) of Subsection 1 of Section 8 of the Act.

The maximum pension payable to a blind person is \$240 yearly except in the case of a blind person, who, after the coming into force of the amendment to the Act, marries a person so blind as to be unable to perform any work for which eyesight is essential. The maximum pension in such a case is \$120 yearly.

The amended Act provides that pensions payable to blind persons shall be subject to reduction as follows:—

- (a) in the case of an unmarried person or a widower without a child or children or a widow without a child or children, by the amount of the income of the pensioner in excess of two hundred dollars a year;
- (b) in the case of a married person or a widower with a child or children or a widow with a child or children, by the amount of the income of the pensioner in excess of four hundred dollars a year;
- (c) in the case of a person married to a blind person receiving a pension under the amended Act, by the amount of the income of the pensioner in excess of two hundred dollars a year.

It is also provided that no blind person who is married, or is a widower with a child or children, or a widow with a child or children, shall be entitled to any pension in excess of the pension to which an unmarried person is entitled unless such married person and his or her spouse or such widower or widow and one or more of his or her children are living together.

The Governor in Council is empowered to make regulations with regard to pensions for blind persons and to define the expression "is so blind as to be unable to perform any work for which eyesight is essential".

#### 27.—Financial Summary of Pensions for Blind Persons in Canada, by Provinces, as at Dec. 31, 1937.

Item.	Nova Scotia. — Act effective Oct. 1, 1937.	New Brunswick. — Act effective Sept. 1, 1937.	Quebec. — Act effective Oct. 1, 1937.	Ontario. — Act effective Sept. 1, 1937.	Manitoba. — Act effective Sept. 1, 1937.	Total.
Total numbers of pensioners.	20	18	201	315	13	567
Average monthly pensions. \$	19.71	19.40	19.51	19.66	18.56	-
Dominion Government's contributions from inception of amendment to Old Age Pensions Act.....\$	626	718	8,321	6,294	360	16,319

### Section 11.—The Co-operative Movement in Canada.

A general article on "The Co-operative Movement in Canada" appeared at pp. 704-720 of the 1925 edition of the Year Book under the three sub-headings of "Consumers' Co-operation", "Co-operative Credit", and "Producers' Co-operation".\* Because of the pressure upon space, this article is not reprinted here, but

\*The article referred to above was prepared for the Year Book by Miss Margaret Mackintosh, M.A., of the Department of Labour, Ottawa.