

Subsection 2.—Public Health Activities of the Provincial Governments.*

Prince Edward Island.—The supervision of public health matters in Prince Edward Island was placed, on July 1, 1931, under a specially created Department of Public Health, presided over by a Minister and his Deputy. Two part-time physicians, five full-time public health nurses, and two sanitary and food inspectors are employed. Under the direction of the Deputy Minister, the province is divided into five public health districts and each nurse is assigned a territory in which she is responsible for the inspection of school children, home visits, home-nursing classes, immunizing and vaccinating clinics, etc. The sanitary and food inspectors make regular surveys of the food-manufacturing plants, school premises, hotels, boarding houses, restaurants, etc., throughout the province. The Government also operates the Falconwood Hospital for the Insane and the Provincial Infirmary.

In addition the Government subsidizes the Provincial Sanatorium, which has a capacity of sixty beds and has functioned to capacity since July 1, 1931. In charge of the Provincial Sanatorium is a Medical Superintendent with an assistant and a staff of trained nurses. The Superintendent conducts chest clinics at regular intervals throughout the province as well as a regular weekly clinic in the Sanatorium, where referred cases from physicians are examined.

The Department of Health operates the Provincial Laboratory and a qualified technician is in charge, who examines material forwarded by physicians throughout the province.

Two venereal disease clinics are conducted by the Public Health Department, one in Charlottetown and the other in Summerside. All prisoners in Queens and Prince Counties' gaols are examined and treatment given when required. Other patients unable to attend these clinics on account of distance are treated by their own local physicians who are supplied with the necessary medication.

Nova Scotia.—In Nova Scotia the Department of the Public Health directs its energies to communicable disease control; pre-natal, post-natal, and school hygiene; sewage disposal; safety of milk and water supplies; collection of vital statistics; mental hygiene and health education. All of this has brought into being a comprehensive organization, presided over by a Minister. This acts in an advisory capacity to all local boards of health; makes regulations respecting any matter relevant to the public health; maintains a field force that provides a consulting service in tuberculosis and other health activities; supports a public health nursing service with specially trained nurses, who work both in the schools and in the homes; gives a free public health laboratory service which extends throughout the province; supervises the provincial hospitals, both general and special; provides inspection of public general hospitals and humane institutions; stocks and dispenses sera and vaccines; and distributes literature on all phases of health.

In addition to the foregoing, the Department has recently broadened out and has taken under its ægis certain phases of social welfare and dependency that give it the administration of mothers' allowances, old age pensions, child welfare, and a training school for the mentally deficient.

In reviewing Public Health activities in Nova Scotia during the year 1938, mention should be made of new demands for service that have led to expansion of the older programs and the provision of new ones. A Divisional Medical Health Officer was placed in charge of the Western Health Division of the province. Another Doctor of Medicine was, in September, made Chief of the Bureau of Vital

* The material under this heading has been revised by the respective provincial authorities.