

The wandering life of the Eskimos and the vast area over which they are scattered present great difficulties in ascertaining their exact numbers. The total for the entire Dominion, according to the latest returns, is about 6,500, located mainly in the Northwest Territories, with approximately 1,590 in Quebec, 85 in Yukon Territory, 62 in Manitoba and 3 in Alberta.

The administrative care of Eskimos outside of the organized provinces devolves upon the Department of Mines and Resources which, by regulative measures (including the setting aside of game preserves where only natives may hunt, and the establishment of reindeer herds), conserves the natural resources necessary to their subsistence. Contact with the Eskimos is maintained through permanent stations (at a number of which medical officers are located) in the Eastern, Central, and Western Arctic, by patrols of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and by means of the annual Canadian Eastern Arctic Patrol by steamship.

Section 5.—Pensions and Other Provision for War Veterans

The administration of returned soldiers' affairs is carried on by the Pensions Branch of the Department of Pensions and National Health. This Branch is also responsible, by direction of the Canadian Pension Commission, for certain administrative duties under the Pension Act and the Returned Soldiers' Insurance Act. The Chief Treasury Officer is responsible for all payments under these Acts.

As the result of an arrangement with the Department of National Defence, hospital services of the Department of Pensions and National Health were made available to members of the Active Forces. The number of men admitted to hospital during the fiscal year 1940-41 was 51,964, being more than four times the annual pre-war hospitalization figures. The Department maintains hospitals in eight principal cities throughout Canada.

The Department provides accommodation in its hospitals for pensioners who, through age or infirmity, are unable to care for themselves. Such cases numbered 327 on Mar. 31, 1941, compared with 360 on the same date of 1940, 407 in 1939 and 377 in 1938. The issue of orthopædic and surgical appliances remains constant. The number of pensioners who were granted relief during the fiscal year 1940-41, was 6,302, compared with 8,907 during 1939-40 and 10,732 during 1938-39. Expenditure on relief amounted to \$1,005,832 in 1940-41, \$1,847,229 in 1939-40 and \$2,186,683 in 1938-39.

The Department continued to assume financial responsibility for industrial accidents suffered by workmen in receipt of pension from 25 p.c. to 79 p.c. During the fiscal year 1940-41 \$62,674 was paid in 583 claims, as compared with payments of \$74,995 in 502 cases during 1939-40 and \$77,841 in 455 cases during 1938-39.

The disbursements of the Department (including \$1,178,326 for National Health, and War Appropriations of \$3,386,111) amounted to \$61,959,012 in the fiscal year 1940-41. Of this \$41,745,522 was paid as Pensions, \$7,372,653 as War Veterans' Allowances and \$1,026,339 as Unemployment Assistance. Detailed expenditures are shown in the Annual Report of the Department for 1940-41 at p. 37.

The Canadian Pension Commission.—The Commission, under the terms of the Pension Act, has exclusive jurisdiction to deal with and adjudicate upon all matters relating to the award, and amount, of pension for disability or death arising from service with the Forces. By regulations established under the War Measures Act (R.S.C. 1927, c. 206) its powers are at present extended to deal with cases of certain other individuals engaged in essential war work.