

Veterans' Allowances.—In addition to war pensions, allowances are paid to certain non-pensionable veterans at 60 years of age, or earlier if the veteran is permanently unemployable, or eligible veterans who, having served in a theatre of actual war, are incapable and unlikely to become capable of maintaining themselves because of economic handicaps combined with disabilities.

Dependents' Allowances.—The Dependents' Allowance Board is charged with the payment of allowances to dependants of members of the Armed Forces, the main purpose of which is to promote the well-being and efficiency of His Majesty's Forces by relieving financial anxieties with respect to the domestic welfare of their dependants.

The Board consists of a civilian chairman and representatives from the three Armed Services and the Treasury and administers all allowances. Where investigation is necessary, it is carried out through the field staffs of the Department of Pensions and National Health, the Soldiers Settlement Board, provincial welfare services, and private welfare organizations such as Children's Aid Societies and Family Welfare Bureaus.

A special Family Welfare Section has been instituted by the Board to administer allowances when the recipient is infirm or where domestic difficulties necessitate the intervention of a third party. In some cases the serviceman's wife may request administration of her allowance in case of illness or of her financial affairs becoming involved. The Section maintains the closest co-operation with the various welfare agencies.

Supplementary Grants Fund.—A Dependents' Board of Trustees has been set up to administer this fund, which is designed to give supplementary assistance in special cases of difficulty and hardship where it can be shown that the regular allowances are inadequate. The Board operates with the assistance of Regional Dependents' Advisory Committees that have been established in the chief cities of the Dominion.

Veterans' Unemployment Assistance.—The activities of the Welfare Division of the Department of Pensions and National Health are outlined in the Post-War Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Chapter of this volume.

Unemployment Insurance.—In 1940, by an amendment to the British North America Act, the Dominion Government was given complete jurisdiction in the field of unemployment insurance and since that time a national system of unemployment insurance administered by the Unemployment Insurance Commission has been in operation. (See Labour Chapter pp. 712-714.)

Government Annuities.—For thirty-five years the Dominion Government has carried on a service that permits and encourages Canadians, during the earning period of their lives, to make provision for their old age. The necessary legislation was passed in 1908 as the Government Annuities Act (c. 7, R.S.C., 1927, amended by c. 33, 1931). This Act is now administered by the Minister of Labour, and provides that any person resident or domiciled in Canada may purchase an annuity from the Government of Canada. (For statistics of annuities, see pp. 673-674.)

The Dominion Government in Co-operation with the Provinces.—Each of the provinces as indicated below has adopted the Dominion Old Age Pension Act which has been extended to cover the needy blind. Statistics for all provinces are given at pp. 671-672.