

Mothers' allowances are administered by the Social Assistance Branch of the Provincial Secretary's Department, the Act being in force since July, 1920. The Branch also administers the social allowances, funds for this purpose being voted by the Legislature to cover needy cases which do not come under the provisions of any special Act. Medical services and prescribed drugs are provided for all types of social assistance cases. In organized municipalities the Province bears half the cost and in unorganized territory the whole cost. Supplementary assistance is also being given to old age pensioners for the protection of their health and comfort. The Province operates a Home for the Aged and a Provincial Home, together with three provincial infirmaries. The cities of Vancouver and Victoria also operate Homes for the Aged.

*Workmen's Compensation.*—The Workmen's Compensation Act has been in effect since Jan. 1, 1917. See also pp. 723-725.

## WELFARE STATISTICS

### Section 1.—Unemployment Insurance

Because of its close relationship to labour and the fact that unemployment insurance is administered with selective service and manpower it is considered advisable for the present to continue to carry these statistics in the Labour Chapter where they will be found at pp. 712-715.

### Section 2.—Workmen's Compensation

Workmen's Compensation can be regarded from two standpoints, viz., (a) the industrial and (b) its relationship to the broad field of public welfare. It is perhaps one of those border-line cases where either point of view is justified (see Section 7 for others). Nevertheless because Workmen's Compensation (unlike Unemployment Insurance for instance) is entirely the responsibility of industry, and is closely associated with labour and the compensation of the worker, it is felt that the statistics regarding it are more logically dealt with in the Labour Chapter where they will be found at pp. 723-725. The welfare aspects of payments made to workers injured in the course of their duties should not, however, be overlooked.

### Section 3.—Old Age Pensions and Pensions for Blind Persons\*

*The Old Age Pensions Act, 1927.*—Legislation respecting Old Age Pensions (R.S.C., 1927, c. 156) was adopted by the Dominion Parliament in 1927. Under the provisions of this Statute the Dominion Government reimbursed each province participating in the Dominion scheme to the extent of one-half of the provincial expenditure for old age pensions. An amendment passed at the 1931 session of Parliament (c. 42, Statutes of 1931) provided that the Dominion contribution to the provinces be increased from 50 p.c. to 75 p.c. of the provincial disbursements for old age pensions. The Dominion contribution of 75 p.c. of provincial disbursements was made effective from Nov. 1, 1931; the provinces have since been reimbursed on this basis.

By Orders in Council passed under the authority of the War Measures Act, the maximum pension has been increased from \$240 to \$300 a year and the maximum income (including pension) from \$365 to \$425 a year.

\* Revised under the direction of Dr. W. C. Clark, Deputy Minister, Department of Finance, Ottawa.