

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, complied with certain conditions. These are set forth at pp. 706-707 of the 1941 Year Book. The amendments made under the War Measures Act also apply to blind pensioners. The maximum income (including pension) is, however, higher in the case of a blind pensioner. The amounts in different cases are covered in the Old Age Pensions Act, c. 156, R.S.C. 1927, as amended.

At Dec. 31, 1943, the average pension received in each province was as follows: P.E.I., \$22·41; N.S., \$20·75; N.B., \$22·98; Que., \$24·35; Ont., \$23·88; Man., \$24·23; Sask., \$24·45; Alta., \$23·99; and B.C., \$24·26.

3.—Numbers of Persons in Receipt of Pensions for the Blind, by Provinces, as at Dec. 31, 1939-43

Province	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Prince Edward Island.....	110	115	114	113	113
Nova Scotia.....	551	603	621	621	639
New Brunswick.....	641	702	739	737	720
Quebec.....	1,700	1,913	2,068	2,146	2,251
Ontario.....	1,305	1,427	1,496	1,516	1,481
Manitoba.....	257	304	326	347	344
Saskatchewan.....	244	284	310	321	321
Alberta.....	181	194	214	241	240
British Columbia.....	276	286	320	332	326
Totals.....	5,265	5,828	6,208	6,374	6,435

4.—Dominion Contributions to Pensions for Blind Persons, by Provinces, as at Dec. 31, 1939-43

Province	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Prince Edward Island.....	12,936	14,360	14,079	14,524	18,192
Nova Scotia.....	88,085	100,015	105,464	107,406	110,694
New Brunswick.....	102,729	119,057	126,597	130,068	131,422
Quebec.....	283,012	326,187	360,895	374,280	424,414
Ontario.....	218,110	243,352	261,230	266,910	272,429
Manitoba.....	39,850	49,120	55,394	59,397	59,808
Saskatchewan.....	42,707	49,261	53,659	57,686	59,752
Alberta.....	28,316	33,155	35,855	39,870	45,253
British Columbia.....	44,108	49,913	54,066	57,953	63,054
Totals.....	859,853	984,420	1,067,239	1,108,094	1,185,018

Section 4.—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.

A Canadian Government annuity is a fixed yearly income purchased from and paid by the Government of Canada. The annuity is payable in quarterly instalments (unless otherwise expressly provided) for life and may be guaranteed for ten, fifteen, or twenty years in any event. The minimum amount of annuity obtainable on the life of one person or on the lives of two persons jointly is \$10 a year and the maximum amount is \$1,200 a year.