

**Alberta.**—The Department of Public Welfare administers a comprehensive program of welfare activities, many of which were originally administered by other Departments. Among the activities of the Child Welfare Branch are listed:—

- (1) The Care of Neglected and Dependent Children.
- (2) Homes for Aged Single Men.
- (3) Care of the Single Unemployed without municipal domicile and Improvement District domicile.
- (4) Improvement of Economic Conditions of the Métis Colonies.

*Child Welfare.*—The care of children is carried out in foster homes or by grants-in-aid to religious or charitable institutions: the Province does not maintain a reform school but employs the foster-home system, placements being chiefly on farms and carefully supervised.

The education of deaf and blind children is the responsibility of the Department of Education, which maintains children in special schools outside the Province and grants are made to sight-saving classes and classes for sub-normal children in the larger cities.

*Adult Welfare.*—Homes for the aged, operated by municipalities or religious bodies, are granted financial assistance.

Persons suffering from paralysis following poliomyelitis are aided to rehabilitate themselves by financial aid for business and vocational training.

Two hostels for men are maintained at Edmonton and Calgary where destitute single men, without permanent municipal domicile, are cared for and two welfare depots are maintained in the country. Single ex-service men are cared for in Calgary and Edmonton without being institutionalized. The Department has also been successful in the rehabilitation of families by resettling them on the land.

The rehabilitation of the Métis—those of mixed Indian and White blood who do not qualify under the Indian Act—has been carried out by the setting aside of tracts of land as Métis Settlement Areas, where the colonists have exclusive fishing, hunting and trapping rights and where they are encouraged to engage in lumbering, agriculture and stock-raising. Educational and social services are provided and government-operated stores sell goods at cost price.

*Mothers' Allowances.*—The Mothers' Allowance Act was passed in 1919 and became effective in that year. For statistics of payments under the Act, see p. 818.

*Old Age Pensions and Pensions for the Blind.*—The Province has co-operated with the Dominion-Provincial Old Age Pension plan since Aug. 1, 1929, and with the amendment to the Act providing for the payment of pensions to blind persons since Mar. 1, 1938. For statistics see pp. 810-812.

*Workmen's Compensation.*—The Workmen's Compensation Act of 1918 became effective Aug. 1, 1918, as regards mining, and Jan. 1, 1919, in respect of all other industries except agriculture, retail trade and offices, teachers, etc. Amendments in 1919 and 1928 brought all railway trades except conductors and trainmen under the scope of the Act. See also pp. 784-788.