

British Columbia.—Health and Welfare Services operated by the Province come under the administration of the Provincial Secretary's Department. Welfare Services include:—

- (1) Child Welfare.
- (2) Mothers' Allowances.
- (3) Social (family and individual) Allowances.
- (4) Industrial Schools.
- (5) School for the Deaf and Blind.
- (6) Home for the Aged and Provincial Homes.
- (7) Provincial Infirmaries.
- (8) Psychiatric and medical-social services for Mental, Tuberculosis and Venereal Disease Divisions.
- (9) Old Age Pensions.

In British Columbia all social workers—general, medical and psychiatric—are employed by, and come under, the direction of the Social Assistance Branch and are included in the Field Service Division. The general worker in the field is trained to do case work for all of the services mentioned above with specialized workers assigned to mental institutions, tuberculosis sanatoria and clinics. ▽

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.

Child Welfare.—The Child Welfare Division of the Social Assistance Branch is responsible for Child Welfare work and covers the protection of children, adoptions, placements in foster homes, children of unmarried parents, juvenile delinquency, etc. In Vancouver and Victoria the work is carried out in co-operation with Children's Aid Societies but elsewhere all activities are directly administered by the Branch.

Mothers' Allowances.—Mothers' Allowances are administered by the Social Assistance Branch, the Act being in force since July, 1920.

Social Allowances.—Social Allowances are administered by the same Branch under the Social Assistance Act that came into force on Apr. 1, 1945. Under this Act provision is made for all those categories that are not otherwise dealt with. The Province contributes 80 p.c. of the cost for municipal cases.

Old Age Pensions and Pensions for the Blind.—Old Age Pensions are administered by a Board under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Secretary's Department and all social work is done by the Field Service Division of the Social Assistance Branch. Supplementary assistance is also being given to old age pensioners for the protection of their health and comfort. Pensions have been paid to blind persons since Dec. 1, 1937. For statistics see pp. 810-812.

Homes for the Aged.—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. Social Services in cities and municipalities have been amalgamated in order to do away with dual administration and combined services act in close co-operation with the health services.

Workmen's Compensation.—The Workmen's Compensation Act, effective Jan. 1, 1917, provides compulsory accident insurance in almost every industrial occupation carried on in the Province. See pp. 784-789.