

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, 1944, the average pension received in each province was as follows: P.E.I., \$22.33; N.S., \$24.29; N.B., \$24.60; Que., \$24.75; Ont., \$24.59; Man., \$24.67; Sask., \$24.94; Alta., \$24.46; B.C., \$24.69.

3.—Numbers of Persons in Receipt of Pensions for the Blind, by Provinces, as at Dec. 31, 1940-44

Province	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Prince Edward Island.....	115	114	113	113	112
Nova Scotia.....	603	621	621	639	643
New Brunswick.....	702	739	737	720	737
Quebec.....	1,913	2,068	2,146	2,251	2,366
Ontario.....	1,427	1,496	1,516	1,481	1,487
Manitoba.....	304	326	347	344	252
Saskatchewan.....	284	310	321	321	332
Alberta.....	194	214	241	240	249
British Columbia.....	286	320	332	326	329
Totals.....	5,828	6,208	6,374	6,435	6,607

4.—Dominion Contributions to Pensions for Blind Persons, by Provinces, as at Dec. 31, 1940-44

Province	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Prince Edward Island.....	14,360	14,079	14,524	18,192	22,034
Nova Scotia.....	100,015	105,464	107,406	110,694	135,275
New Brunswick.....	119,057	126,597	130,068	131,422	158,056
Quebec.....	326,187	360,895	374,280	424,414	516,940
Ontario.....	243,352	261,230	266,910	272,429	324,120
Manitoba.....	49,120	55,394	59,397	59,808	80,738
Saskatchewan.....	49,261	53,659	57,686	59,752	74,457
Alberta.....	33,155	35,855	39,870	45,253	53,801
British Columbia.....	49,913	54,066	57,953	63,054	72,193
Totals.....	984,420	1,067,239	1,108,094	1,185,018	1,437,614

Subsection 5.—Government Annuities

For over thirty-six years the Dominion Government has carried on a service that permits and encourages Canadians to make provision for their old age during the earning period of their lives. 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,