

The Social Welfare Board which is comprised of the Deputy Minister as chairman and the Directors of the three main Branches deals with all applications for assistance under the various Acts administered by the Department.

Child Welfare.—This Branch supervises and directs the Child Welfare activities of the Province and deals mainly with delinquent children, wards, children of unmarried parents, orphans and neglected children, education of blind children, foster homes, children's shelters, supervision of institutions, and adoptions.

One children's shelter is being operated by the Branch at the present time and another is in the course of construction which will provide for the needs of orphaned and neglected Métis children in the northern and outlying districts of the Province. There are Children's Aid Societies in the four larger cities, three of which maintain shelters. During the war years, the Branch conducted a considerable number of investigations for the Dominion Government in connection with the welfare of families of men in the Armed Forces.

Some of the older wards are being maintained in homes and on farms under Wage Agreements and after allowing a reasonable amount for their requirements arrangements are made to place the balance of their wages in a trust fund to be used at a later date for establishing them.

All institutions or homes operated in the Province for the betterment and well-being of children are subject to supervision and inspection by the officials of the Branch so that a uniform standard may be maintained.

Where a child, other than a child born out of wedlock, is committed as a ward of the Minister of Social Welfare, the judge committing the child may order the municipality in which the child was residing at the time of apprehension to pay the sum of not less than \$3.50 per week to be applied towards the maintenance of the said child.

Old Age Pensions and Pensions for the Blind.—This Branch administers the payment of Old Age Pensions and Pensions for the Blind under supervision of the Social Welfare Board which was set up under the provisions of the Social Welfare Act, 1944. Saskatchewan was the second Province in Canada to inaugurate the payment of Old Age Pensions, the agreement became effective on May 1, 1928, while the payment of Pensions to the Blind commenced on Nov. 15, 1937. For statistics, see pp. 797-798.

Social Aid.—This Branch makes provision for indigent persons in co-operation with the various municipal units of the Province; such aid is shared on a 50-50 basis by the Province and the municipality concerned. Social aid is provided for transient indigent persons, the cost of which is borne entirely by the Province. The Branch operates a farm on which it employs a number of Métis families who were formerly recipients of social aid. This farm is proving to be a valuable asset and progress is being made in re-establishing these people by teaching them modern farm methods, and in making them self-supporting by paying them a wage for services rendered.

Provision for the payment of Mothers' Allowances is made in the Child Welfare Act and was originally enacted in 1917 as the Mothers' Pensions Act. More recently the administration of Mothers' Allowances has been made the responsibility of the Social Aid Branch. See also p. 803.

Industrial School for Boys.—The Department has assumed the management and operation of the School which provides corrective training and academic instruction for delinquent boys of from 10 to 16 years of age.