

bodies, many of which were incorporated during the latter part of the nineteenth century. In many cases, Government aid was granted, with official inspection as the natural corollary. As early as 1752 an orphanage was opened at Halifax, N.S., for orphans and deserted children and in Upper Canada an Act was passed, towards the end of the century, to provide for the education and support of orphaned children. In the different colonies before Confederation, under various Acts of the Legislatures, houses of refuge, homes for the aged, orphanages and other charitable institutions were provided. The most serious welfare problems, particularly in Upper and Lower Canada, were those connected with immigration. Many immigrants were destitute on their arrival and were dependent on charity. In 1822, an immigrant hospital was opened at Quebec for the care of the indigent sick. Throughout the colonies before Confederation an interest in child welfare found expression in the incorporation of numerous institutions for friendless orphans and physically incapacitated children. These orphanages were largely supported by the philanthropy of societies or individuals and, if grants of public money were received, the management was subject to Government supervision. During this period, the orphanage was all that was available to the child who lacked normal home care.

Since Confederation, the principle has become generally recognized that the indigent, aged and infirm, orphans, dependent and neglected children, the deaf and dumb and the blind should be the responsibility of the State. Numerous acts of the Provincial Legislatures have recognized municipal and provincial responsibility for these classes of the population by establishing institutions, welfare services, or other provisions for their care. In every province of Canada, public-welfare organizations now exist to look after their protection and well-being. Child-welfare work, as it is known to-day, was not recognized as a special field for case work until the close of the nineteenth century. Now, noteworthy contributions are being made in this field by the provincial child-welfare authorities, the Children's Aid Societies and other social agencies. Of the 468 institutions that reported at the Census of 1941, 76 were controlled by Provincial and County Governments, 61 by municipalities, 104 were under private auspices and 227 under religious and fraternal organizations.

The field of social welfare is a very wide one and includes the work of many voluntary organizations. The Canadian Welfare Council gives national direction to, and co-ordinates the work of, the local welfare agencies; specialized organizations, such as the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and the Canadian Federation of the Blind, occupy a somewhat similar role in their particular fields. The various Community Chest organizations and service clubs assist welfare work by helping to finance local organizations, and the great work of the Young Men's Christian Association, the Young Women's Christian Association, the Catholic Youth Organization and the Young Men's Hebrew Association, the Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and similar youth organizations, in what may be described as preventive rather than curative work, cannot be overlooked. Day nurseries provide services to many mothers who are obliged to work. Most of the activities of these organizations are not susceptible to statistical measurement. In the case of the Canadian Red Cross, the Victorian Order of Nurses, and the Order of Saint John, their fields of effort are more closely related to public health and are therefore treated in Chapter VII, at pp. 205-209.

An outline of the welfare work being carried on by the Dominion Government and by each of the Provincial Governments follows.