

Old Age Pensions and Pensions for the Blind.—The Province has co-operated with the Dominion-Provincial Old Age Pension plan since July 1, 1936, and with the amendment to the Act providing for the payment of pensions to blind persons, since Sept. 1, 1937. For statistics see pp. 229-231.

Homes for the Aged.—These are operated under municipal, religious, fraternal or private auspices and are subject to provincial inspection.

Workmen's Compensation.—The Workmen's Compensation Act was passed in 1918 and came into force on Jan. 2, 1919. See also Chapter XX on Labour.

Quebec.—The Quebec Department of Health and Public Welfare administers a comprehensive plan of social welfare, including aid to, and the supervision of, the numerous welfare institutions operated by religious orders or private charity. In Quebec, the administrative policy of welfare services is somewhat different from that of other provinces in that the responsibilities ordinarily assumed by the public authorities are, in many cases, delegated to recognized religious and private welfare agencies, aided by substantial grants from public funds. The Provincial Relief Act provides for assistance without undue interference with the life of the family.

A noteworthy feature in the line of preventive work is that carried out by the Family Registry Office, whereby children from tubercular families, who have not been infected but for whom there is reason to be apprehensive, are boarded out with rural families. This Office works in conjunction with local ministers and doctors, as regards the moral and physical supervision of these children.

Another aspect of the welfare program in this Province is the colonization scheme, whereby needy families are settled on the land in newly opened districts, and are supervised and granted financial aid until they become self-supporting.

The Government of the Province of Quebec is aware that the future of the Province and the survival of its institutions, including the numerous grave problems bearing on the future of youth, depend largely on the long-term policies adopted by the Government in regard to such matters. An Act was passed at the 1946 Session of the Quebec Legislature to set up a Department of Social Welfare and Youth which shall study such problems and administer all laws of the Province of Quebec having for their object the social welfare of the people and assistance to youth in preparation for its future.

Mothers' Allowances.—The Needy Mothers' Assistance Act, 1937, became effective in December, 1938. For statistics of operations under the Act, see pp. 226-228.

Workmen's Compensation.—The Quebec Workmen's Compensation Commission was established in 1928 by authority of cc. 79 and 80 of the Statutes of that year. The Act was brought into force by proclamation on Mar. 22, 1928, operations of the Commission commencing as of Sept. 1, 1928. Under this Act, the Quebec Commission did not insure employers against their liability. On Apr. 4, 1931, a new Act (21 Geo. V, c. 100), effective Sept. 1, 1931, provided for such insurance, along the lines of the Workmen's Compensation Act of Ontario. See also Chapter XX on Labour.

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