

**Ontario.**—The Department of Public Welfare administers the following forms of assistance:—

*Child Welfare Division.*—In this Division are included:—

- (1) The Children's Aid Branch, which is responsible for the administration of the Children's Protection Act, the Children of Unmarried Parents Act and the Adoption Act; supervision of 53 Children's Aid Societies in the Province. Since the cessation of hostilities, this Branch has co-operated with the Dominion Department of Veterans Affairs in assisting with the re-establishment of returned veterans and family welfare problems.
- (2) The Day Nurseries Branch. An Act respecting day nurseries passed by the Ontario Legislature in 1946 provides for the establishment of day nurseries in Ontario, serving the pre-school child. Under the Act, any municipality may establish a nursery and receive provincial contribution equal to one-half operation and maintenance expenditures. The Act also provides for the supervision of all day nurseries throughout Ontario.
- (3) The British Child Guests Branch, which continues the supervision of British children evacuated from the United Kingdom during the War who still remain in Ontario.
- (4) Supervision of institutions for children.

*Mothers' Allowances.*—Since 1920, allowances have been paid by the Province to widows and other necessitous mothers. In addition to basic allowances, free medical services, including necessary drugs, are provided, as well as a 20 p.c. cost-of-living bonus. In addition, the Commission has discretionary authority to increase any beneficiary's allowance, up to \$10 per month, where need is shown. See also pp. 226-228.

*Soldiers' Aid Commission.*—Through the Commission, advice and emergency assistance is extended to ex-service men of the First and Second World Wars and their families.

*Old Age Pensions and Pensions for the Blind.*—The Province has co-operated in the Dominion-Provincial Old Age Pensions plan since Nov. 1, 1929. Benefits reach a maximum of \$25 per month, plus a \$3 maximum cost-of-living bonus paid by the Province, which also provides free medical services, including necessary drugs. In 1937, Ontario was one of the first provinces to pay pensions to the blind under provisions of the Old Age Pensions Act. For statistics, see pp. 229-231.

*Homes for the Aged.*—Homes for the aged are incorporated under the Houses of Refuge Act, the Houses of Refuge in Districts Act and the Charitable Institutions Act, and are operated by cities, counties, districts and religious or benevolent societies under provincial supervision.

*Unemployment Relief.*—The Unemployment Relief Act of Ontario authorizes contribution on the part of the Department of Public Welfare toward alleviation of distress of unemployable persons. The municipalities of the Province are reimbursed 50 p.c. of the expenditures, while in the unorganized areas the Province administers and pays the total cost of aid rendered.

*Workmen's Compensation.*—The Workmen's Compensation Act came into force on Jan. 1, 1915. See Chapter XX on Labour.