

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 until the child becomes 16 years of age. No charge is laid against the municipality where the total of such maintenance charges exceeds one mill of the tax rate 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. 229-231.

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 wages for services rendered. A school for Métis children was established at Crescent Lake in 1946 and another is under consideration for the Duck Lake district.

Arrangements are being made for the opening of a hostel in Regina to provide suitable living quarters for teen-age girls who are wards of the Minister of Social Welfare.

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 pp. 226-228.

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.

Home for the Infirm.—The Department also operates a Home for the Infirm which provides accommodation for approximately 90 aged and infirm people. The Department also has supervisory powers over all privately operated homes in the Province which render similar service. Plans are under way for the construction of another Home to be operated by the Department which will accommodate approximately 150 to 200 aged and infirm persons.

Workmen's Compensation.—The Workmen's Compensation Act came into force July 1, 1930. See Chapter XX on Labour.