

Alberta.—The Department of Public Welfare, established Apr. 1, 1944, administers a comprehensive program of welfare activities. The following Statutes are administered by the Department:—

- (1) Bureau of Public Welfare.
- (2) Métis Population Betterment Act.
- (3) Child Welfare Act.
- (4) Relief Liability Act.
- (5) Improvement District Act (Sects. 43, 44 and 45).
- (6) Unemployment Relief Act.
- (7) Old Age Pension Act.
- (8) Mothers' Allowance Act.
- (9) Homes for Aged or Infirm Act.

Bureau of Public Welfare.—This Bureau, commonly known as the Relief Branch, provides assistance to the needy who have no municipal residence. It also provides grants and aid to municipalities which have given assistance to resident unemployed employables.

Two hostels for men are maintained at Edmonton and Calgary where destitute single men without permanent municipal domicile are cared for, and two welfare depots are maintained in the country. Single ex-service men are cared for in Calgary and Edmonton without being institutionalized. The Bureau has been successful in the rehabilitation of families by resettling them on the land.

Métis Rehabilitation Branch.—The rehabilitation of the Métis—those of mixed Indian and White blood who do not qualify under the Indian Act—has been carried out by the setting aside of tracts of land as Métis Settlement Areas, where the settlers have exclusive fishing, hunting and trapping rights and where they are encouraged to engage in lumbering, agriculture and stock-raising. Educational and social services are provided and Government-operated stores sell goods at cost price.

Child Welfare Branch.—Care of children who become wards of the Province either by neglect, delinquency or by indenture and agreement come under the exclusive control of the Child Welfare Commission. They may be placed either in foster homes, in paid boarding homes or in institutions depending on the individual cases. Maintenance in boarding homes or institutions is paid by the Province. The Province does not maintain any reform schools for delinquent children; such children are placed in carefully selected homes under constant supervision and are inspected periodically by Departmental officials.

The education of deaf and blind children is the responsibility of the Department of Education, which maintains children in special schools outside the Province. Grants are made to sight-saving classes and classes for sub-normal children in the larger cities.

Old Age Pensions and Pensions for the Blind.—The Province has been co-operating in the Dominion-Provincial Old Age Pension plan since Aug. 1, 1929, and with the amendment to the Act providing for the payment of pensions to blind persons since Mar. 1, 1938. For statistics, see pp. 229-231.

Mothers' Allowance Branch.—The Mothers' Allowance Act was passed in 1919 and became effective in that year. For statistics, see pp. 226-228.