

*Homes for Aged or Infirm.*—The Homes for the Aged and Infirm Act came into effect on Mar. 28, 1945, and provides for the payment of a grant to municipalities maintaining either aged or infirm residents in licensed homes.

**British Columbia.**—Welfare services operated by the Province come under the administration of the Social Welfare Branch of the Department of Health and Welfare. Such services include:—

- (1) Child Welfare.
- (2) Mothers' Allowances.
- (3) Social (family and individual) Allowances.
- (4) Old Age Pensions.
- (5) Provincial Home.
- (6) Girls' Industrial School.
- (7) Boys' Industrial School.

In British Columbia all social workers—general, medical and psychiatric—are employed by, and come under, the direction of the Social Welfare Branch and are included in the Field Service Division. Social workers are trained to give a generalized service and are required to do case work for all the services mentioned above. In addition, case work is done for mental institutions, tuberculosis hospitals, venereal disease clinics, infirmaries, etc., and for the Federal Departments.

Medical services and prescribed drugs are provided for all types of social welfare cases. In organized municipalities the Province bears half the cost and in unorganized territory the whole cost.

*Child Welfare.*—The Child Welfare Division of the Social Welfare Branch is responsible for child welfare work and covers the protection of children, adoptions, placements in foster homes, children of unmarried parents, juvenile delinquency, etc. In Vancouver and Victoria the work is carried out in co-operation with Children's Aid Societies but elsewhere all activities are directly administered by the Division.

*Mothers' Allowances.*—Mothers' allowances are administered by the Social Welfare Branch, the Act being in force since July, 1920. For statistics, see pp. 226-228.

*Social Allowances.*—Social allowances are administered by the same Branch under the Social Assistance Act that came into force on Apr. 1, 1945. Under this Act provision is made for all those categories not otherwise dealt with. The Province contributes 80 p.c. of the cost for municipal cases.

*Old Age Pensions and Pensions for the Blind.*—Old age pensions, which have been paid in the Province since Sept. 1, 1927, are administered by a Board under the jurisdiction of the Social Welfare Branch of the Department of Health and Welfare and all social work is done by the Field Service Division of the Social Welfare Branch. Supplementary assistance is also being given to old age pensioners for the protection of their health and comfort. Pensions have been paid to blind persons since Dec. 1, 1937. For statistics, see pp. 229-231.

*Provincial Home.*—The Social Welfare Branch operates a Provincial Home for the care of aged male persons. Several cities and municipalities also operate homes for the aged.