

receive full benefits under the Family Allowances Act. This divergent treatment of young and old Indians may be accounted for by the fact that family allowances are entirely a federal matter, whereas the old age pensions and pensions for the blind are paid on a joint arrangement between the Dominion and the provinces in which the Indians do not participate because they are regarded as the responsibility of the Dominion only.

From early times, the use of intoxicating liquor by Indians and the supplying of it to them has been prohibited under heavy penalties, as a protective measure. Another protective measure restricts trading with Indians on reserves and disposal by Indians of their property in certain areas.

Enfranchisement.—The Indian Act provides for the enfranchisement of Indians. When an Indian is enfranchised, he ceases to be an Indian under the law and acquires the full rights and responsibilities of Canadian citizenship. In the older provinces, where the Indians have been longer in contact with civilization, many are becoming enfranchised. Great discretion, however, is exercised by the Government in dealing with this problem, as Indians who become enfranchised lose the special protection attached to their Indian status, so that it is necessary to guard against premature enfranchisement.

Subsection 2.—The Eskimos of Canada

Information on the Eskimos of Canada will be found at p. 1133 of the 1946 edition of the Year Book.

Section 3.—Department of the Secretary of State*

The Department of the Secretary of State was constituted in its present form in 1873, through the merging of the previously existing offices of the Secretaries of State for Canada and for the provinces. The Secretary of State is the official spokesman of the Government, as well as the medium of communication between the Federal and Provincial Governments, all correspondence between the Governments being conducted by him with the Lieutenant-Governors. He is also the custodian of the Great Seal of Canada and the Privy Seal as well as being the channel by which the general public may approach the Crown.

The Secretary of State is also the Registrar General, registering all proclamations, commissions, licences, warrants, writs and other instruments issued under the Great Seal and the Privy Seal. He is further charged with the administration of the Canadian Citizenship Act, the Boards of Trade Act, the Companies Act, the Canada Temperance Act, the Copyright Act, the Patent Act, the Trade Unions Act, the Ticket of Leave Act, the Unfair Competition Act (1932), the Trading with the Enemy (Transitional Powers) Act, and with the collection and tabling of parliamentary returns. The Secretary of State deals with the organization and administration of the Office of the Custodian of Enemy Property (see the 1945 Year Book, p. 475). Statistics regarding patents and copyrights appear at pp. 845-846 of this volume.

* Revised under the direction of the Under Secretary of State, Department of the Secretary of State.