

Veterans' Allowances.—In addition to war pensions, allowances are paid to certain non-pensionable veterans at 60 years of age, or earlier if the veteran is permanently unemployable, or to eligible veterans who, having served in a theatre of actual war, are incapable and unlikely to become capable of maintaining themselves because of economic handicaps combined with disabilities. These allowances are outlined in Chapter XXVIII.

Veterans' Welfare Services.—Welfare and rehabilitation services for veterans, as administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs, are outlined in Chapter XXVIII.

Subsection 5.—Prairie Farm Assistance*

The Prairie Farm Assistance Act, passed in 1939, and administered by the Federal Department of Agriculture, provides for direct money payments by the Federal Government, on an acreage basis, to farmers in areas of low crop yields in the Prairie Provinces and the Peace River District of British Columbia. The Act was designed to replace assistance in the form of relief and provides that payments be made to farmers under certain conditions and terms; it requires that 1 p.c. of the purchase price of all grains (wheat, oats, barley and rye) marketed in the Prairie Provinces be paid to the Federal Government and set aside in a special fund for the purposes of the Act.

If the farmer, who may be an owner or tenant, or a member of a co-operative farm association engaged in farming, is located in a crop-failure area, he may be awarded assistance on not more than one-half of the cultivated land or a maximum of 200 acres. The rates of payment range up to \$2.50 per acre.

From the inception of the scheme to Mar. 31, 1949, the total amount paid out under the Act was \$104,606,488.74. The amount collected under the 1 p.c. levy was \$38,634,389.32.

Subsection 6.—Government Annuities†

Under the Government Annuities Act (c. 7, R.S.C., 1927, amended by c. 33, 1931) passed in 1908, the Federal Government carries on a service to assist Canadians to make provision for old age. The Act is administered by the Minister of Labour.

A Canadian Government Annuity is a fixed yearly income purchased from and paid by the Government of Canada. The annuity is payable in monthly instalments for life, or for life and guaranteed for a period of years. The minimum annuity is \$10 and the maximum \$1,200 a year. Annuity contracts may be deferred or immediate. Under deferred annuity contracts purchase is by periodic or single premiums. Immediate annuity contracts provide immediate income.

The property and interest of the annuitant is neither transferable nor attachable. In the event of the death of the annuitant before a deferred annuity vests, all money paid is refunded to the purchaser or his legal representatives with interest. Provision is made in the Act for group annuity contracts, whereby employers may contract

* Contributed by the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

† Revised by the Government Annuities Branch, Department of Labour, Ottawa.