

Veterans' Land Act and the promotion of handicrafts. A description of the work done in the first classification will be found at pp. 1170-1177 of the 1948-49 edition of the Year Book; an account of what is done for the welfare of Indians follows.

In pursuance of the general welfare policy of improving housing on many reserves 750 new houses were built during the year ended Mar. 31, 1949, and 1,750 dwellings were repaired. Provision was made for the construction of an additional 850 houses in the fiscal year 1949-50, most of the labour to be supplied by the owners. Relief to the amount of \$893,161.71, in the form of a basic ration of groceries rather than money, was supplied to indigent Indians. Sick and aged indigent Indians on the recommendation of medical officers received special rations, including milk, fresh vegetables, fruit and eggs, particularly during periods of convalescence. In addition, 4,000 indigent aged Indians received cash allowances amounting to \$364,000. Progress was made in the co-ordination and promotion of adult and physical education, particularly in Alberta and British Columbia where courses in these fields were initiated in co-operation with provincial universities.

Family Allowances are paid to Indian women as they are to the other women of Canada. Experience has proved that, with few exceptions, the Indian mother has intelligently set Family Allowances aside for the purposes for which they are intended. Improved clothing and more adequate school lunches are a direct result. The amount spent in Family Allowances to Indians was \$3,500,000.

Under the Veterans' Land Act more than 1,000 Indian veterans have taken advantage of rehabilitation grants which have been invested in new houses, farms, trap-lines and commercial fishing projects.

Eskimo Welfare.—One of Canada's most challenging welfare-administrative problems is the task of assisting the Eskimos to adjust themselves to changing conditions, while at the same time attempting to preserve their racial characteristics and personality traits. This problem calls for the continued co-operation of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, missionaries, traders, medical personnel and others who have contact with these interesting and wholesome people. The Department of Mines and Resources is responsible for general welfare and educational services, including the payment of Family Allowances.

For many years the administration of Eskimo affairs was conducted largely through the Eastern Arctic Patrol, the annual visit of administration, medical, and scientific personnel to posts in the Arctic and Sub-Arctic. Throughout the year ended Mar. 31, 1949, local administration was carried on by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. During periods of need, when game and fur are scarce, the police are authorized to ensure that no one suffers any undue hardship. Recently, however, more frequent inspection trips by boat and air afford a closer liaison between the departments and their local representatives, and a correspondingly more efficient administration of Eskimo affairs.

With the inception in 1945 of the Family Allowances Act, which included authorization for the payment of allowances to Eskimo children, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police were appointed District Registrars for Family Allowances. Since