Section 4.—Government Insurance

In addition to the insurance provided by private insurance companies various types of government insurance schemes have been adopted in recent years by the Federal and Provincial Governments. This Section deals briefly with the principal schemes now in effect.

Only those schemes dealing with the types of insurance covered by this Chapter, viz., fire, life and casualty are treated here. Information on unemployment insurance, health insurance, export credits insurance, etc., will be found in the Chapters on Labour, Health and Welfare, Foreign Trade, etc.

Veterans Insurance.*—The Veterans Insurance Act which came into force on Feb. 20, 1945, is a Federal Government Statute which provides that veterans who were engaged in service during the Second World War, the widows and widowers of veterans, disability pensioners under the Pension Act in receipt of pensions relating to the War, most members of the Active Forces, and certain merchant seamen, may contract with the Government of Canada for life insurance, usually without medical examination. The period of eligibility ends six years after the coming into force of the Act or six years after discharge from Service, whichever is later. For the Active Forces generally it will end on Apr. 1, 1952, and for the eligible merchant seamen it will end on Feb. 20, 1951.

The amount of insurance may be any multiple of $500 up to a maximum of $10,000. The plans of insurance available are 10-payment life, 15-payment life, 20-payment life, and life with premiums payable until age 65 or age 85. The policies are non-participating.

Premiums on veterans insurance may be paid monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually. They may be paid in cash or from re-establishment credit or by deduction from any pension granted under the Pension Act. The policy contracts include a waiver-of-premium disability provision. No extra premiums are charged for residence, travel or occupational hazards.

At the end of the second policy year a liberal cash value is available. It may be used alternatively to provide reduced paid-up insurance or extended term insurance. A veteran's insurance policy is not assignable, nor is a loan value granted.

The maximum amount of insurance money that will be paid in a lump sum at death is $1,000; the balance must be paid to the beneficiary as an annuity certain or as a life annuity with or without a guaranteed period.

* Revised by C. F. Black, Superintendent, Veterans Insurance, Department of Veterans Affairs, Ottawa.

29.—Summary Statistics of Veterans Insurance, Years Ended Mar. 31, 1946-49

Year Ended Mar. 31—	Insurance Issued During Year		Insurance in Force at End of Year		Death Claims Approved During Year	
	No.	$	No.	$	No.	$
1946	4,013	11,971,500	3,914	11,708,550	1	500
1947	6,442	18,783,000	10,077	29,658,000	17	55,500
1948	8,825	24,599,000	18,433	52,594,612	38	100,500
1949	4,615	14,074,500	22,293	63,836,743	91	245,500