

disability, members of the Armed Forces, Indians and Eskimos, and other federal charges, is a provincial responsibility, carried out generally in co-operation with local governments.

No comprehensive public medical and hospital care program has yet emerged for Canada as a whole, though progress has been made in regard to health insurance during the past decade. A federal proposal to the Dominion-Provincial Conference on Reconstruction in 1945 outlined a nation-wide program of public medical care at an estimated annual cost of \$250,000,000.

The more significant advances in public health and public medical care in recent years include the introduction of the National Health Grant Program to assist provincial health services (see p. 204) and to prepare for a broad health insurance scheme; the establishment of a prepaid public medical-care scheme in Health Region No. 1 (Swift Current Area) in Saskatchewan; and the implementation of province-wide public hospital care schemes in Saskatchewan and British Columbia. With the entry of the Province of Newfoundland into Confederation a prepaid hospital-care plan was brought into the orbit of Canadian experience. In this Province, a cottage hospital scheme, which has been in operation for 15 years and which covers a considerable sector of the population, outside of St. John's, provides hospital and medical care on a prepaid basis.

## PART I.—PUBLIC HEALTH\*

The planning, supervision and financial responsibility for public health has been largely assumed by the provinces, and to a lesser extent by the Federal Government, with actual administration being carried on, principally, by municipal and other local authorities. The functions of the Federal Government are described in Section 1; the activities of the Provincial Governments are reviewed in Section 2; and institutional statistics are given in Section 3.

### Section 1.—Federal Health Activities

Federal participation in health matters is largely centred in the Department of National Health and Welfare, with certain important programs being administered by other departments such as the Department of Veterans Affairs, which provides medical and hospital care to veterans, chiefly for disability suffered as a result of war service (see Veterans Affairs Chapter); the Department of National Defence, which is responsible for the health of the Armed Forces; and the National Research Council which, through its Division of Medical Research, administers grants for, and co-ordinates, medical research. The Department of Agriculture has certain responsibilities in connection with food production.

The collection and compilation of health statistics is undertaken by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics which publishes annual, monthly and special reports on vital statistics, institutional, hospital and other health data.

Under the Department of National Health and Welfare Act of 1944 the Department is responsible for the administration of certain statutes, for research in health matters, for the enforcement of international health obligations undertaken by Canada and, in co-operation with the provinces, for the preservation and improvement of the public health.

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