

Veterans' Land Act and the promotion of handicrafts. A detailed account of the welfare work done among Indians is given at pp. 1170-1177 of the 1948-49 edition of the Year Book.

During the year ended Mar. 31, 1950, in pursuance of the policy of improving housing on many reserves, 1,197 new houses were built and 2,271 were repaired. Provision was made for the construction of an additional 922 houses in 1950-51, most of the labour to be supplied by the owners. A total of \$1,325,342, 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 convalescence. In addition, 4,100 indigent aged Indians received cash allowances amounting to \$386,744 and provision was made for the expenditure of \$1,063,500 for that purpose in 1950-51. 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 uses the allowances for the purposes for which they are intended. Improved clothing and more adequate school lunches are a direct result. Up to Mar. 31, 1950, family allowances to Indians amounted to \$3,500,000.

More than 1,000 Indian veterans have taken advantage of rehabilitation grants provided under the Veterans' Land Act and have invested them in 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 Resources and Development is responsible for general welfare and educational services.

Administrative supervision of Eskimo affairs has long been conducted through the annual Eastern Arctic Patrol. Recently, however, more frequent inspection trips by boat and air have afforded a closer liaison between the Departments concerned and their local representatives, and a correspondingly more efficient administration of Eskimo affairs.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police act as local representatives of the Government in all matters affecting Eskimo welfare and economy. They also supervise the issuance of relief to widows and the helpless and arrange for the evacuation of the seriously ill to hospital.

Medical and health services are provided by Indian Health Services of the Department of National Health and Welfare, assisted by residing missionaries, traders and the R.C.M.P. A number of nursing stations have been set up and mission hospitals with resident Government doctors are maintained, with the assistance of Government grants, at Aklavik, Chesterfield Inlet and Pangnirtung.

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