

War Veterans' Assistance Fund.—During the year 1949 an Assistance Fund was established under authority of the Appropriation Act No. 1 of 1949. The need for this Fund was confirmed by two welfare surveys conducted by the Welfare Services Branch of the Department. These surveys showed that approximately 21 p.c. of War Veterans Allowance recipients living in rural areas and 27 p.c. of those living in urban areas were unable to manage on the current allowance. The Assistance Fund was introduced to supplement the allowance in such cases.

District Assistance Fund Committees were established in each District Office of the Department. The District Committee has the responsibility of investigating and adjudicating on each application. Approved applications are paid from the District Treasury Office, thus making the funds available to veterans in need as rapidly as possible.

Vocational and University Training.—The vocational training program, authorized under the Veterans' Rehabilitation Act, is dealt with in the Labour Chapter at p. 690, and the university training for veterans program in the Education Chapter at p. 304.

The Veterans' Land Act.—The Veterans' Land Act is designed to assist veterans who are eligible by reason of service and who can qualify in becoming established on the land in full-time farming, part-time farming (small holding), or commercial fishing. Its financial benefits enable the veteran to start off with a substantial equity, which past experience has demonstrated is essential to sound credit land-settlement operations.

The provisions of the Act will be found on pp. 1072-1073 of the 1946 Year Book and explanations of amendments made to the Act in 1946 and 1947, respectively, on pp. 1148-1149 of the 1947 edition and on p. 1157 of the 1948-49 edition.

Two important changes to the Act were made, however, during 1949-50:—

- (1) Section 9A was added which permits the Director of the Act, when such action appears to be in the best interests of the veteran and where, at the same time, it will improve or maintain the Director's security, to effect the sale of all or part of a property on behalf of and at the request of a veteran, and to rediburse the sale proceeds for the purchase of other property for the veteran or for the improvement of the remainder of his property.

Action of this kind is considered to be in the nature of ordinary business transactions and should substantially assist veterans in the improvement of their properties and consequently in their chances of success. It is not intended, however, to permit veterans to speculate with their properties and certain safeguards are contained in this new section of the Act to prevent transactions of a purely speculative nature.

- (2) Regulation 31 was revoked and new Regulation 31 enacted by Order in Council P.C. 800 dated Feb. 17, 1950. This Regulation requires:—
 - (a) That a veteran established on the land in full-time farming must personally operate his property during the ten-year conditional-grant period; and
 - (b) That a veteran established on the land in part-time farming (small holding) or commercial fishing must personally reside on and operate his property during the ten-year conditional-grant period.

The Director, at the request of a veteran, may approve from time to time the temporary discontinuance by the veteran of personal residence on and operation of his property but such approvals shall be for not more than one year at any one time and, except with the approval of the Minister, shall not exceed two years in the aggregate during the ten-year conditional-grant period.

An important part of ensuring the success of the veteran who settles on the land lies in the correct and fair appraisal of the land prior to its purchase for settlement purposes. As at Mar. 31, 1950, 33,331 full-time farming properties, 21,766 small