

recipients was discontinued. In special circumstances relief assistance, in addition to the \$25-a-month cash payment, may be authorized to alleviate hardship arising from unusual local conditions.

In paying this allowance it is the intention of the Indian Affairs Branch to place the aged Indian on an equal footing with the non-Indian recipients of the old age pension as administered by the various Provincial Governments. Although the amount of money he receives is smaller, the aged Indian benefits from residence on tax-free land, complete medical coverage, and the generally lower cost of living on Indian Reserves. Moreover, as stated above, additional relief assistance may be provided if circumstances make such relief necessary. It is hoped that this measure will enable aged Indians in Canada to achieve a greater degree of independence and self-respect than was possible under the former system.

A supplementary estimate to the Indian Affairs Branch 1949-50 welfare appropriation provided funds for special assistance to tubercular Indians as a preventive measure and to supplement the greatly expanded facilities for treatment provided by Indian Health Services of the Department of National Health and Welfare. These funds are being used to ensure that the Indian convalescing from tuberculosis receives an adequate diet in the post-discharge period before he is well enough to fend for himself, and to care for his dependants by providing adequate food and clothing, as well as other assistance, according to individual needs. It is expected, through this measure, to reduce the incidence of relapse for convalescent tubercular cases, to reduce the number of new cases by providing adequate diet and care for the families of hospitalized Indians who have been exposed to infection, and to speed the recovery of the breadwinner in hospital by relieving his mind of concern for his dependants.

The following statement indicates the amount of family allowances distributed to Indian families by provinces in 1949:—

<u>Province</u>	<u>Amount</u>
	\$
Prince Edward Island.....	6,375
Nova Scotia.....	70,136
New Brunswick.....	63,793
Quebec.....	352,206
Ontario.....	804,517
Manitoba.....	474,980
Saskatchewan.....	415,636
Alberta.....	336,633
British Columbia.....	725,186

There was a slight reduction in new applications for grants under the Veterans' Land Act during the fiscal year 1949-50, and a reduction of 25 p.c. in supplementary applications. The value of applications approved decreased 19 p.c., and expenditures decreased 24 p.c. The amount approved and unexpended at the end of the year was \$477,190.

<u>Purpose of Grant</u>	<u>Veterans</u>	<u>Value to Mar. 31, 1950</u>	<u>Average Value</u>
	No.	\$	\$
Land and buildings.....	275	221,418	805
Building materials.....	826	955,925	1,157
Clearing.....	159	65,896	414
Live stock and equipment.....	638	808,403	1,267
Forestry equipment.....	10	11,465	1,147
Commercial fishing equipment.....	125	186,160	1,489
Fur-farming equipment.....	61	31,036	509
Household equipment.....	653	144,392	221
<b>TOTALS.....</b>	<b>2,747</b>	<b>2,424,695</b>	...