

Subsection 3.—Unemployment Insurance and National Employment Service

In 1940, by an amendment to the British North America Act, the Federal Government was given jurisdiction in the field of unemployment insurance and the Unemployment Insurance Act was passed, establishing a national system of unemployment insurance which is outlined in Chapter XVIII.

The National Employment Service is operated in conjunction with the unemployment insurance scheme. It is administered through the employment and claims offices and supervised by the Department of Labour. This program is also described in Chapter XVIII.

Subsection 4.—Prairie Farm Assistance

The Prairie Farm Assistance Act is administered by the Department of Agriculture; a description of the legislation is given in Chapter X.

Subsection 5.—Welfare Services for the Indian and Eskimo

Indian Welfare.*—In addition to direct relief of all kinds for destitute Indians which is provided to prevent hardship, the Government of Canada, through the Department of Citizenship and Immigration, promotes a number of activities designed to assist individuals and bands to achieve self-support or to better their economic position. During the year ended Mar. 31, 1951, \$3,925,172 was spent for direct relief in the form of food, fuel, clothing, household equipment and care for helpless and indigent Indians. In addition, special diets were provided for convalescent tubercular Indians in the post-hospitalization period.

Indians in Canada are eligible for family allowances and old age security on the same basis as non-Indians. Moreover, in most provinces Indians are eligible for the provincially administered old age assistance pension payable to persons 65 to 69 years of age subject to a means test. Blind Indians in most provinces are also eligible for the blind persons allowances.

Family allowances amounting to \$3,619,075 were paid to 20,399 Indian families in 1951. This income has exerted a very great influence on Indian Reserves toward the betterment of the children's diet, their clothing and school attendance. It is estimated that approximately \$2,500,000 will be paid annually to Indians 70 years of age or over through old age security pensions. This income, in addition to that paid to Indians in the 65-69 age group and to blind Indians, will be of great benefit to these people.

During the year ended Mar. 31, 1951, Indians who were unable to provide adequate housing for themselves were assisted in the construction of 1,082 new houses and with repairs to 2,052 houses. The Departmental contribution to this program was \$911,991 for new construction and \$195,701 for repairs.

Grants for settlement under the Veterans' Land Act were obtained for 122 Indian veterans, bringing the total number of such grants to 1,212 amounting to \$2,721,868.

The Indian Affairs Branch operates a service for the promotion and sale of Indian handicraft to merchants in all parts of Canada. The articles include utilitarian and ornamental or novelty baskets and items made of bark and wood, the

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