

Government provides consultative and specialist services, assists in the financing of provincial health activities through the National Health Program and also maintains services for special groups such as veterans and Indians.

Subsection 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 the Department of Veterans Affairs which provides medical and hospital care to veterans, chiefly for disabilities resulting from war service; the Department of National Defence, responsible for the health of the Armed Forces; the Medical Division of the National Research Council which administers grants for medical research; and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, responsible for the collection and compilation of health statistics. The Department of Agriculture has certain responsibilities in connection with food production.

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 carrying out of international health obligations undertaken by Canada and, in co-operation with the provinces, for the preservation and improvement of public health.

Under the Quarantine Act the Department maintains a maritime and aerial navigation quarantine service against entry of infectious diseases; it advises on the administration of sections of the Immigration Act dealing with health and conducts, in Canada and overseas, the medical examination of applicants for immigration. It also provides care for sick mariners as required under Part V of the Canada Shipping Act, and has certain national and international responsibilities with regard to the pollution of boundary and other waters.

Under the Food and Drugs Act, the Proprietary or Patent Medicine Act and the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act, the Department is responsible for the control of the safety and purity of food and drugs; the registration, preparation and sale of proprietary or patent medicines; and control of the import, export and distribution of narcotic drugs.

The Department advises on the visual eligibility of applicants for blindness allowances and co-operates with the provinces in the provision of surgical or remedial treatment for selected recipients of these allowances; it is responsible for supervision of health conditions for persons employed on federal public works, as provided under the Public Works Health Act, and maintains a program for the conservation and promotion of the health of civil servants and other Federal Government employees. Medical advisory services are provided for the Department of Transport in all matters pertaining to the safety, health and comfort of air crew and passengers.

The National Health Program.*—The National Health Program, introduced in 1948, provides for the payment of federal grants to the provinces for the development of health and hospital services; at the present time 12 grants are available.

Since the inception of the program the provinces have steadily increased their utilization of the grants. The annual amounts of expenditure in each fiscal year have been as follows: 1948-49, \$7,400,000; 1949-50, \$15,500,000; 1950-51, \$18,700,000; 1951-52, \$23,900,000; 1952-53, \$26,900,000; 1953-54, \$29,200,000; and 1954-55, \$31,600,000. From 1948 to 1954 expenditures amounted to approximately 59 p.c. of the funds available; the following figures show that the proportion for 1954-55 was 64 p.c.

* A special article on the first five years of the National Health Program is given in the 1954 Year Book, pp. 215-223.