

*Social Assistance.*—Relief to needy persons is a local responsibility under the Poor Relief Act except in the cities of Halifax and Sydney which provide welfare relief under their charters. The Province reimburses municipalities or welfare agencies which provide relief to transients lacking legal residence in the Province.

**New Brunswick.**—The Department of Health and Social Services administers provincial welfare legislation.

*Child Care and Protection.*—Under the Children's Protection Act, administered by the Minister of Health and Social Services, responsibility for protection and placement services is largely delegated to Children's Aid Societies. Guardianship of a neglected child may be vested in a Society, in the Director of Child Welfare or in the Court. Orphanages are operated by religious, private or municipal organizations. Boarding homes, with some exceptions, are licensed and are subject to the provincial inspection required for all child care institutions. The Province and the municipality of residence each contribute towards the maintenance of wards committed to an institution, and the Province reimburses municipalities for one-half of the cost of maintaining wards placed in foster homes, up to a prescribed maximum. The Province also makes grants to the Children's Aid Societies to assist in their general child welfare program. The Department may place blind or deaf-mute children in special schools outside the Province. Juvenile Courts are under the Attorney General's Department and delinquent boys may be placed in the Provincial Industrial School for Boys which reports to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

*Care of the Aged.*—Homes for the aged are operated under municipal, religious, fraternal or private auspices and are subject to provincial inspection but they receive no direct financial support from the Province.

*Social Assistance.*—Relief to needy persons is a local responsibility and is generally discharged through the provision of institutional or indoor relief to those in need. Outdoor relief is provided in a number of centres. Federal payments to the Province provided by agreement with the Department of Municipal Affairs under the federal Unemployment Assistance Act, 1956 (see p. 282) were made retroactive to Jan. 1, 1956.

**Quebec.**—Provincial welfare measures are administered by the Department of Social Welfare and Youth. Legislation passed in 1956 provided for the transfer to that Department from the Department of Health of responsibilities under the Public Charities Act for orphanages, nurseries, adoption and welfare institutions and the placement of abandoned children. The Public Charities Act embodies the Government's policy of granting subsidies to religious and private institutions rather than creating public services. Grants representing a major share of the costs of the services are made by the Province, with the municipalities and the institutions also contributing.

*Child Care and Protection.*—Needy or abandoned children are generally cared for in institutions such as orphanages and nurseries although there is an increasing use of foster homes by child welfare agencies. Children who are found by a Social Welfare Court or other court to be particularly exposed to moral or physical dangers may be admitted to recognized youth protection schools administered by the Department of Social Welfare and Youth. Municipalities of residence, depending on their size, contribute from 15 to 25 p.c. of the operating and maintenance costs of these schools and the Province the remainder and the entire cost of new construction. The Social Welfare Courts which are under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Attorney General, have statutory responsibility in connection with child and youth protection and certain other provincial programs and also serve as Family Courts. Children who have been exposed to tuberculosis but who have not been infected are placed with rural families under the supervision of the Department of Health in co-operation with child welfare agencies.