

Social Assistance and Special Services.—The costs of assistance to needy persons with municipal residence are divided on a 75-25 basis between the Province and the municipalities and the Province pays the entire cost for transients and for persons in unorganized areas. Federal payments to the Province made by agreement under the federal Unemployment Assistance Act 1956 (see p. 282) were made retroactive to July 1, 1955.

The Rehabilitation Branch provides training and placement services for the handicapped; one-half the cost of this training is borne by the Province and one-half by the municipality of residence. It is also responsible for the rehabilitation of minority groups and operates a farm where the métis—persons of mixed Indian and white stock who do not qualify under the Indian Act—are instructed in modern methods of farming while being paid for their work. Three schools are conducted for métis children.

The Department administers the Provincial Housing Act which empowers the Province to enter into public housing projects under the National Housing Act, and to stimulate construction of low-rental housing projects by limited-dividend housing corporations.

Alberta.—The Department of Public Welfare is responsible for the administration of provincial welfare measures. It has branches at the four larger centres and inspectors are located in suitable areas throughout the Province.

Child Care and Protection.—The Provincial child welfare program is directed by a Child Welfare Commission. Neglected children, made wards of the Government by court order or by agreement, may be placed in foster homes, adoptive homes or institutions. The cost of maintenance of wards is paid by the Province which recovers 40 p.c. of such cost from the municipality of residence. The Home Investigating Committee is responsible for the inspection and the licensing, where required, of all homes and institutions in which children are given care. The Attorney General's Department administers legislation regarding juvenile delinquency.

Care of the Aged.—Provincial grants equalling one-third of the cost or \$750 a bed, whichever is less, may be made to municipalities erecting or purchasing homes with ten or more beds for aged or infirm persons. The Province also meets up to 60 p.c. of the cost incurred by municipalities for the maintenance of indigent aged and infirm persons in homes licensed by the municipality in accordance with specified standards.

Social Assistance.—Municipalities are responsible for assistance to indigent residents but the Province reimburses the municipalities for up to 60 p.c. of the value of the assistance and pays the total cost of assistance to transients. The Province administers relief to residents of unorganized districts subject to a refund of 40 p.c. of the assistance from the districts. Families may be assisted through settlement on suitable farm lands. The Single Men's Branch maintains two hostels and one welfare centre to care for unemployable single homeless men without municipal domicile. The Province has also established a number of métis colonies where settlers have extensive fishing, hunting and trapping rights and are encouraged to engage in lumbering, agriculture and stock-raising. Educational services are provided and government operated stores sell goods at cost price.

Widows Pensions.—Under the Widows Pension Act, widows aged 60 to 64 years inclusive may receive pensions of up to \$46 per month. Also included in this category are wives of husbands committed to mental hospitals or deserted wives who meet the conditions of need and residence and are within the designated age group.

British Columbia.—Administration of provincial services by the Social Welfare Branch of the Department of Health and Welfare is decentralized through district and municipal offices in six regions covering the whole Province. Generalized field service is provided by provincial social workers. The staff of the Social Welfare Branch is also responsible for welfare services required in connection with a number of programs operated by the Health Branch.

Cities and municipalities of over 10,000 population must have their own social welfare departments to administer the social assistance program and to provide case-work services. The Province pays 50 p.c. of the salaries of municipal social workers or, where more than