

### Section 3.—Provincial Programs

#### Subsection 1.—Mothers' Allowances

All provinces make statutory provision for allowances to needy mothers who are deprived of the breadwinner and are unable to maintain their dependent children without assistance. Mothers' allowances programs, whether set out in separate Acts or included in other statutes such as child welfare or assistance Acts, have been administered as separate programs. There was a change in this pattern with the announcement of the Government of British Columbia that, as from Sept. 1, 1958, mothers' allowances would be discontinued and aid provided to needy mothers as to other needy persons under the Social Assistance Act. This is the culmination of a long-term trend in British Columbia of assisting needy mothers under this Act, which is considered more flexible in operation than the Mothers' Allowances Act. In an earlier change in Newfoundland the terms of the Mothers' Allowances Act were incorporated in the Social Assistance Act, but specific categories of needy mothers were retained as one of the three groups for which there are programs of aid under this Act.

The following general remarks do not apply to British Columbia, although the statistical tables include data for British Columbia for the year ended Mar. 31, 1958.

Subject to the conditions of eligibility which vary from province to province, mothers' allowances are payable from provincial funds to applicants who are widowed or whose husbands are mentally incapacitated and, except in Alberta, to those whose husbands are physically disabled and unable to support their families. They are also payable to deserted wives who meet specified conditions; in several provinces to mothers who have been granted a divorce or legal separation; in some, to unmarried mothers; and in Ontario and Quebec to certain Indian mothers. Foster mothers may be eligible under particular circumstances in most provinces.

The age limit for children is 15 years in one province, 16 years in six provinces, and 17 years in two provinces. Provision is made in most provinces to extend payment for a specified period if the child is attending school or if he is physically or mentally handicapped.

In all provinces applicants must satisfy conditions of need and residence but the amount of outside income and resources allowed and the length of residence required prior to application vary, the most common period being one year, although in one province it is five years. All provinces require that the applicant be resident at the time of application and generally that the child or children live with the recipient, and most provinces require that they continue to live in the province while in receipt of an allowance. In 1958, two provinces removed from their statutes the condition requiring Canadian or British citizenship.

In each province the relevant Act is administered by public welfare authorities. In some provinces a Mothers' Allowances Board or Commission makes the final decision regarding eligibility and the amount of allowances granted, or acts in an advisory capacity. Rates of benefit as of July 1958 are given in Table 11 and the number of families and children assisted and amounts of benefits paid as at Mar. 31, 1956-58, are given in Table 12.