

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 one is needed, matches the municipal appointees, worker for worker. Smaller municipalities may have their own or amalgamated social welfare departments or they may pay for the services of the Social Welfare Branch.

Child Care and Protection.—The Child Welfare Division administers legislation governing the protection of children, including adoptions, and provides direct services except at Vancouver and Victoria where it supervises the Children's Aid Societies. Municipalities are responsible for the costs of maintaining wards but the province reimburses them to the extent of 85 p.c. of such expenditure and pays the entire cost for children in unorganized areas. The province pays the total maintenance cost of wards who are children of unmarried mothers. Child care institutions, boarding homes and day nurseries are licensed and supervised. The Social Welfare Branch administers an industrial school for delinquent boys and one for delinquent girls. Juvenile Courts are under the jurisdiction of the Attorney General's Department.

Care of the Aged.—The province operates the Provincial Home for elderly homeless men, the Provincial Infirmary for the chronically ill and the Provincial Homes for the Aged for senile and psychotic patients. It also licenses and supervises homes for the aged, nursing homes, and boarding homes and, where necessary, shares with the municipalities on an 80-20 basis the costs of maintaining needy residents. The province meets the total costs for provincial charges. Under the Elderly Citizens Housing Aid Act the province makes grants amounting to one-third of construction costs to municipalities and non-profit corporations, including religious and service organizations, building homes or low-rental housing units for elderly citizens.

Social Assistance.—The social assistance program is administered by the local municipal office or by the provincial district office. It includes allowances to indigent individuals or families, counselling services, occupational training and the maintenance costs of nursing home or boarding home care. The province reimburses the municipalities for 90 p.c. of the cost of basic and certain supplementary social assistance payments to indigent municipal residents and assumes the total cost of assistance granted for those without municipal residence. The Federal Government reimburses the province by 50 p.c. of the costs of assistance, under the terms of the Unemployment Assistance Act.

Subsection 3.—Workmen's Compensation

In all ten provinces, legislation is in force providing for compensation for injury to a workman by accident arising out of and in the course of employment or by a specified industrial disease. A summary of provincial workmen's compensation legislation is given in Chapter XVII.

Subsection 4.—Charitable and Benevolent Institutions

Statistics of charitable and benevolent institutions were secured by the Census of 1951 and covered the 1950 activities of 533 institutions, 490 being residential institutions and 43 being day nurseries. Summary statistics are given in the 1954 Year Book, p. 263.