

**Social Services.**—The Social Services Division provides a casework service to veterans and their dependants, and a social welfare consultant service to other departmental officials dealing with welfare matters. It maintains liaison, in the interest of veterans and their dependants, with welfare departments at all levels of government and with private social and philanthropic agencies.

The Division has certain responsibilities in connection with the operation of the Assistance Fund available to war veterans allowance recipients who are in need (see below). At the request of the Department of National Defence it furnishes reports on home circumstances of Armed Forces personnel who request compassionate leave, posting or discharge. The latter service is often instrumental in providing help to those concerned through counselling and referral to community welfare services.

During the year ended Mar. 31, 1959, there were 15,291 requests for services from all sources, about the same as in the previous year; in the year ended Mar. 31, 1960 requests numbered 14,109, an 8-p.c. decrease from 1959.

**Older Veterans.**—Services on behalf of older veterans and their dependants involve assistance with individual employment and financial problems including those caused by age discrimination by employers, unemployment as a result of economic conditions and technological changes, health problems limiting work abilities and narrowing the range of feasible occupations, or retirement with inadequate pension income.

The World War I veteran population in Canada at Mar. 31, 1960 was approximately 250,000, all of whom were over 60 years of age, the average being 68 years. In addition, at least 12,000 World War II veterans were in this age group, a number that will increase at an accelerating rate. It is important that these older veterans, where necessary, be assisted to remain in or to return to self-supporting circumstances but, when this is not possible, that they and their dependants be assured security from other sources. To this end, the Veterans Welfare Services Branch works in close co-operation with other Federal Government departments concerned as well as with provincial and municipal agencies and private organizations. The general willingness of veterans in the older age group to engage in available employment rather than claim other benefits is shown by the fact that at Mar. 31, 1960, 9,410 World War I veterans were registered with the Employment Service of the Unemployment Insurance Commission, 404 fewer than at the same date of 1959. The decrease also indicates a somewhat more realistic attitude of employers toward the hiring of older workers who have the required qualifications. A continuing education program for the older veteran is conducted by the Branch through the Interdepartmental Committee on Older Workers sponsored by the Department of Labour. The Corps of Commissionaires in the fiscal year 1959-60 provided full-time uniformed employment for more than 5,000 selected older veterans, half of whom were working under Federal Government departmental contracts.

**Assistance Fund.**—Supplementary financial assistance is provided by the Assistance Fund to recipients under the War Veterans Allowance Act (see p. 342) who are in need. Assistance may be given as a continuing monthly grant in accordance with a formula which includes costs of shelter, fuel, food, clothing, personal care and certain health needs, or in single grants to meet needs not covered by the formula. The maximum assistance available from the Fund is \$240 and \$300 per annum, respectively, to single and married recipients of WVA.

Field work for the Fund is done almost entirely by the Welfare Services Branch which, through counselling and referral, also assists applicants in other ways. Since a monthly Assistance Fund Grant may be continued without interruption until there is a change in