

in pioneer areas, under agreements between the Federal Government and the provinces; and home building on city-size lots by veterans who have been approved for a loan under the National Housing Act and who act as their own contractors.

Major amendments were made to the Act in 1959, principally relating to the amount of financial assistance available. Under Parts I and III, maximum loans to full-time farmers for the acquisition or development of economic farm units were increased from \$9,000 to \$20,000; and to part-time farmers and commercial fishermen from \$7,400 to \$9,000. The financial assistance available to veterans building their own homes on city-size lots under the provisions of Part II was increased from \$8,000 to \$10,000.

In addition to increasing the maximum of farm loans, the amendments broadened the purposes for which such loans may be made to include the purchase of basic herd livestock and necessary farm equipment, and the repayment of debts reasonably incurred by full-time farming veterans in the development of economic family-farm units. The repayment period of farm loans under Part III for full-time farmers was also extended from 25 to 30 years.

Of the maximum financial assistance available to full-time farmers, part-time farmers and commercial fishermen, \$6,000 is provided under Part I of the Act. A conditional grant or subsidy of up to \$2,320 may be earned by compliance with the terms of the contract for the first 10 years. The maximum repayment period for Part I loans is 25 years with interest at 3½ p.c. Loans made under Part III, with interest at 5 p.c., are repayable over a period of 30 years in the case of full-time farmers and over 25 years in the case of part-time farmers and commercial fishermen.

Veterans being settled on federal or provincial lands and Indian veterans being settled on Indian reserves may obtain financial assistance up to \$2,320 which is non-repayable provided settlement terms and conditions are met for a period of 10 years.

Under Part II, a qualified veteran who has been approved for a loan under the National Housing Act may receive financial and other assistance to build his own home on any lot suitable for a single-family dwelling. The maximum financial assistance available is \$10,000 which, upon completion of the home, is repayable under a mortgage contract with Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation or an approved lender under the National Housing Act at the rate of interest chargeable under that Act.

The Veterans' Land Act Branch continues to be organized into eight districts comprising 32 regional offices. However, as a result of arrangements made with the Farm Credit Corporation for the utilization of the trained VLA staff to handle work under the Farm Credit Act, a major reorganization of field areas is in progress. When completed, the unified field staff of both administrations will comprise 200 Farm Credit Advisors resident within their respective field areas who will be responsible for providing pre-loan counselling related to farm organization, farm planning, credit requirements, etc., to prospective borrowers under the Veterans' Land Act or the Farm Credit Act; carrying out appraisals of farm properties; and providing post-loan counselling for as long as may be necessary in each case.

The field organization of the Veterans' Land Act Branch will also consist of 60 Settlement Officers and 84 Construction Supervisors strategically located across the country whose main duties will relate to the establishment and supervision of part-time farmers and veterans building their own homes.

At the end of March 1960, 83,884 veterans had received financial assistance under the various types of settlement provided in the Veterans' Land Act and a total of \$455,297,926 had been expended. Active accounts numbered 54,682, including 631 Indian veterans settled on Indian reserves whose accounts are administered by the Department of Citizenship and Immigration. During 1959-60, approvals for assistance were made on behalf of 2,910 veterans of World War II and the Special Force, including 350 for full-time farming, 1,837 for part-time farming, 40 for commercial fishing, 21 for settlement on Indian reserves, and 662 for home building on city-size lots under Part II. There