

Subsection 3.—Other Federal Government Programs

Unemployment Insurance and National Employment Service.—In 1940, by an amendment to the British North America Act, the Federal Government was given jurisdiction in the field of unemployment insurance and the Unemployment Insurance Act was passed, establishing a national system of unemployment insurance which is outlined in Chapter XVI.

The National Employment Service is operated in conjunction with the unemployment insurance scheme. It is administered through local employment and claims offices and supervised by the Department of Labour. Statistics of positions offered and placements made are given in Chapter XVI.

Prairie Farm Assistance.—The Prairie Farm Assistance Act is administered by the Department of Agriculture; a description of the legislation is given in Chapter IX.

Welfare Services for Indians and Eskimos.—The welfare of Indians and Eskimos is administered by the Department of Citizenship and Immigration and the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, respectively; this field is covered in the Population Chapter, pp. 170-176.

Section 2.—Federal-Provincial Programs

Subsection 1.—Old Age Assistance

The Old Age Assistance Act of 1952, as amended, provides for federal reimbursement to the provinces for assistance to persons aged 65 or over who are in need and who have resided in Canada for at least ten years or who, if absent from Canada during this period, have been present in Canada prior to the commencement of the ten-year period for double any period of absence. On reaching age 70 a pensioner is transferred to old age security. The federal contribution may not exceed 50 p.c. of \$55 a month or of the assistance paid, whichever is less. The province administers the program and, within the limits of the federal Act, may fix the amount of assistance payable, the maximum income allowed and other conditions of eligibility. All provinces and territories use a maximum payment of \$55 a month.

For an unmarried person, total income allowed, including assistance, may not exceed \$960 a year. For a married couple it may not exceed \$1,620 a year or, when the spouse is blind within the meaning of the Blind Persons Act, \$1,980 a year. Assistance is not paid to a person receiving an old age security pension or an allowance under the Blind Persons Act, the Disabled Persons Act, or War Veterans Allowance Act.

British Columbia, Alberta and Yukon Territory make supplementary payments to recipients of old age assistance who qualify under a means and residence test. In British Columbia the allowance may not exceed \$24 a month, in Alberta \$15 a month, and in the Yukon \$10 a month. In Ontario, the provincial government shares to the extent of 80 p.c. in the first \$20 a month of the supplement paid by a municipality to a needy recipient of old age assistance. In Manitoba, the province may pay a social advance to a recipient of old age assistance unable to provide the basic necessities of life. In some provinces and in the Yukon, recipients of old age assistance who are in special need may be eligible for relief.