

burses the municipalities to the extent of 40 p.c. of the costs, or at a higher rate if costs exceed a specified amount. In Saskatchewan, through the Department of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation, the province reimburses the municipalities for approximately 93 p.c. of the cost of assistance granted to needy persons. The municipalities are assessed annually on a per capita basis for about 7 p.c. of the over-all cost of social aid, and the province reimburses each municipality for all actual expenditures. In Alberta, the province reimburses the municipalities for 80 p.c. of the value of the assistance given. Under Part III of the Public Welfare Act, proclaimed effective June 1, 1961, the province is responsible for allowances for persons who are incapable of supporting themselves because they are mentally or physically handicapped for a period likely to continue for more than 90 days, and for persons who because of their age are not able to be self-supporting. Allowances for needy mothers with dependent children are also now payable under this Act. The Department of Public Welfare maintains two hostels and one welfare centre to care for unemployable single homeless men without municipal domicile.

The Province of British Columbia, through the Department of Social Welfare, reimburses the municipalities on a pooled basis for 90 p.c. of the total cost of social assistance to needy persons. Also, the province shares equally with the municipalities expenditures on salaries of social workers; a municipality with fewer than 15,000 persons may arrange to have the Department undertake social work within the municipality and reimburse it at the rate of 30 cents per capita per year.

Subsection 3.—Services for the Aged

In all provinces, homes for the aged and infirm are provided under provincial, municipal or voluntary auspices. Voluntary homes generally are provincially inspected in accordance with prescribed standards and in some provinces must be licensed. Most provinces contribute to the maintenance of elderly persons in homes for the aged, either through general assistance or through statutes that relate particularly to these homes. Also, 50 p.c. of the payments on behalf of assistance cases in homes for the aged and infirm (homes for special care) are met by the Federal Government (see pp. 259-260).

Several provinces make capital grants toward the construction of homes, and in four provinces capital grants are also available to municipalities, voluntary organizations, or limited-dividend companies for the construction of low-rental housing.

Newfoundland maintains a home for the aged and infirm at St. John's and also pays, in whole or in part, the cost of maintaining needy old people in homes for the aged and boarding homes. In 1955, a grant of 20 p.c. of costs, to be paid over a ten-year period, was made to a religious organization for the construction of a home, and provision is made for grants to similar projects under other auspices. The province is authorized by the Senior Citizens (Housing) Act, 1960 to guarantee the repayment of loans made under the National Housing Act to limited-dividend companies constructing hostels or housing for the elderly. Payment of the cost of operating hostels or housing projects may also be guaranteed. The aged and infirm in Prince Edward Island are cared for in two institutions operated by the Department of Welfare and Labour. In Nova Scotia, the aged are cared for in municipal or county homes, in homes operated by religious or private organizations and in private boarding homes. The province reimburses the municipalities for two-thirds of their expenditures for the maintenance of needy persons in municipal homes, subject to compliance with specified standards of care and accommodation. Homes for the aged receiving aid from the provincial government are subject to provincial inspection. Homes for the aged in New Brunswick are operated under municipal, religious, fraternal and private auspices and receive no direct financial support from the province. Voluntary and proprietary homes are subject to provincial licensing and inspection and must meet standards contained in regulations under the Health Act. Under the Social Assistance Act, 1960, the province contributes to the maintenance of needy persons in municipal homes.