

out through the department of public welfare in each province; several departments have established regional offices to facilitate administration and to provide consultative services to the municipalities.

In recent years, the provinces have assumed a substantial share of the costs of general assistance or residual aid, and some have broadened the area of social allowances, formerly limited almost entirely to mothers' allowances, in which the municipalities do not share costs. The financial contributions of the Federal Government to the provinces for unemployment assistance (see p. 306) has doubtless been an important contributing factor in these developments.

All provinces continue to give consideration to the need for planning on behalf of older citizens. A number have increased their capital or maintenance grants to municipalities and to voluntary groups for homes for the aged and are assisting in the construction of low-rental housing projects.

The main efforts in child welfare have been directed toward improvement of standards and greater flexibility of services, with particular emphasis on preventive casework services for children in their own homes, development of specialized children's institutions, and the finding of adoption homes for all children in need of them.

The public services are supplemented by an impressive number of voluntary agencies which also contribute to community welfare, including the welfare of families and children and of groups with special needs, such as the aged, recent immigrants, youth groups and released prisoners. Welfare councils and social planning councils contribute to the planning and co-ordinating of local welfare services. Local voluntary agencies and institutions may receive public grants, depending on the nature and standard of the services they render, although, with the exception of the semi-public children's aid societies, their main support may be from united funds or community chests, or from sponsoring organizations.

Subsection 1.—Mothers' Allowances

All provinces make provision for allowances to needy mothers. A number of provinces include such allowances in a broadened program of provincial allowances to several categories of persons with long-term need. There is a tendency to incorporate this legislation with general assistance within a single Act, while continuing separate administration. In British Columbia, on the other hand, aid is provided to needy mothers under the general assistance program and in the same way as to other needy persons.

Subject to conditions of eligibility which vary from province to province, mothers' allowances or their equivalents are payable from provincial funds to applicants who are widowed, or whose husbands are mentally incapacitated or are physically disabled and unable to support their families. They are also payable to deserted wives who meet specified conditions; in several provinces to mothers whose husbands are in penal institutions, or who are divorced or legally separated; in some, to unmarried mothers; and in Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia to Indian mothers. Foster mothers may be eligible under particular circumstances in most provinces.

The age limit for children is 16 years in most provinces, with provision made to extend payment for a specified period if the child is attending school or if he is physically or mentally handicapped. In all provinces applicants must satisfy conditions of need and residence but the amount of outside income and resources allowed and the length of residence required prior to application vary, the most common period being one year. One province has a citizenship requirement.

The numbers of families and children assisted in each province as at Mar. 31, 1963, together with the amounts of benefits paid during the year are given in Table 7 and rates of benefit as at April 1964 in Table 8.