

affecting aging, which the Department is in a special position to investigate. Self-contained clinical investigation units have been set up in active treatment hospitals located at Montreal, Toronto, London, Winnipeg and Vancouver. (See also p. 279.)

Hospital Facilities.—Treatment is provided in 11 active treatment hospitals located at Halifax, N.S., Saint John, N.B., Quebec City, Montreal and Ste. Anne de Bellevue in Quebec, Toronto and London in Ontario, Winnipeg, Man., Calgary, Alta., and Vancouver and Victoria, B.C.; also in a health and occupational centre at Ottawa, Ont., and in two domiciliary care homes located at Saskatoon, Sask., and Edmonton, Alta. The rated bed capacity of these institutions at Dec. 31, 1963 was 8,918 beds. It should also be noted that in Ottawa both acute and chronic cases that require definitive treatment are admitted to the National Defence Medical Centre. An additional 571 beds are available in veterans pavilions situated at St. John's, Nfld., Regina, Sask., and Edmonton, Alta. Pavilions are owned by the Department but are operated by the parent hospital, and medical staffs are provided by the Department.

Section 4.—Land Settlement and Home Construction

Up to the end of 1963, 235,822 applications for qualification under the Veterans' Land Act had been submitted, a number equivalent to over 22 p.c. of the Canadian veteran population of World War II. Of these, 71 p.c. were issued qualification certificates and 93,404 (almost 10 p.c. of the veteran population) were approved for financial assistance under the Act. The total amount expended was \$564,353,065, an average of over \$6,000 per veteran. Of the veterans established, 29,952 were assisted on farms, 53,153 on small holdings, 1,251 as commercial fishermen and 5,479 on federal and provincial lands. In addition, 4,038 were assisted with the construction of houses on city-size lots for an expenditure of \$35,421,983, and 1,657 Indians on Indian reservations were given grants amounting to \$3,705,210.

By the same date, 10,818 farmers, 13,717 small holders and 363 commercial fishermen had acquired title to their properties and 20,571 farmers, 20,393 small holders and 714 commercial fishermen had earned their ten-year conditional grants. Similarly, 3,997 veterans on federal and provincial lands and 1,296 Indian veterans had earned their ten-year conditional grants. The total of all grants earned amounted to \$86,310,767. Since inception, 9,318 farmers already established under the VLA, 3,377 small holders and 24 commercial fishermen had obtained additional loans.

As a result of the 1962 amendments to the VLA, operations in 1963 reached their highest level in 15 years. Although there were fewer loans made to farmers, small holders and commercial fishermen not previously established under the Act—2,970 compared with 3,219 in 1962—additional loans numbered 3,275 compared with 2,543 in the previous year and total expenditures increased to \$42,086,000 from \$33,395,000. The number of advances approved for federal and provincial land establishments and the number of approvals for home-building remained about the same—44 compared with 41, and 151 compared with 155, respectively.

General supervision is given to veteran farmers by VLA Credit Advisers, with special attention given to farmers maintaining records. A total of 884 farmers are recorded as keeping detailed farm account books and in 1963 the Farm Service Division of the VLA analysed 633 farm accounts for veteran farmers in the western provinces, covering 16 different types of enterprises or combinations of enterprises. The Ontario Agricultural College analysed 200 accounts maintained by veteran farmers in Ontario, and Truro Agricultural College analysed 51 accounts maintained by farmers in the Maritime Provinces. The Quebec Provincial Government has agreed to analyse farm account books for veteran farmers in that province.

A group contract was entered into with an insurance company in June 1963 under which the life of a veteran may, with his approval, be insured in an amount sufficient to provide for the repayment to the Director of the VLA of the amount of such indebtedness.