

Section 2.—Welfare Services

Welfare services for veterans and, where appropriate, their dependants are provided by the Welfare Services Branch. These include the administration of assigned statutes; the conducting of field work and reporting for other branches of the Department, the Canadian Pension Commission, the War Veterans Allowance Board and Services Benevolent Funds; and the provision of a rehabilitation and welfare program of advice and counselling including referral, where indicated, to other public or private agencies, veterans organizations, etc.

War Service Grants.—War service gratuities payable under the War Service Grants Act to veterans of World War II and the operations to restore peace in Korea are now payable only in cases where delayed application is acceptable. Re-establishment credit payable under the same Act is available up to Oct. 31, 1968. Payment of the credit, except for a balance of \$50 or less, is not made in cash to the veteran but is released on his behalf for specified purposes. Up to the end of 1966 a total of \$315,409,729 had been paid out and unused balances amounted to \$8,520,517. During 1966 the total paid out amounted to \$188,897 made up of \$91,522 for purchases of homes and for repairs and furniture; \$17,151 for purchases of businesses, tools and equipment; and \$80,224 for miscellaneous items such as insurance, special equipment for training, clothing, etc.

Assistance Fund.—Recipients of benefits under the War Veterans Allowance Act and Part XI of the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act living in Canada may be given help from the Assistance Fund if their total income is lower than the permitted maximum. Assistance may take the form of a monthly supplement based on shelter, fuel, food, clothing, personal care and specified health costs or of a single award to meet an unusual or emergency need. The number of persons assisted during 1966 was 21,837, the number in receipt of monthly supplements at the end of the year was 15,135 and the Fund expenditures for the year amounted to \$5,929,316; comparable figures for 1965 were 21,050, 15,736, and \$5,489,826.

Education Assistance to Children.—The Children of War Dead (Education Assistance) Act provides help in the form of allowances and the payment of fees for the post-secondary education of children of those whose deaths have been attributed to military service. Assistance is restricted to children attending, in Canada, educational institutions which require secondary school graduation, matriculation or equivalent standing for admission. These include, in addition to universities and colleges, such facilities as hospital schools of teaching and institutes of technology. From its inception in July 1953 to the end of 1966, expenditures totalled \$6,243,506, of which \$3,288,745 was spent in allowances and \$2,954,761 in fees. By the end of 1966, 4,129 children of Canada's war dead had been approved for training. Of these, 1,612 had successfully completed training—229 had obtained degrees in arts and science, 287 in education, 109 in engineering and applied science, 37 in social work, 25 in medicine, 27 in law, 108 in other university faculties, 391 in nursing, 219 in teaching and 181 in administrative and technological fields. At the same date there were 645 university undergraduates and 227 students in non-university courses receiving assistance.

Veterans Insurance.—The Returned Soldiers Insurance Act (SC 1920, c. 54 as amended) provides eligibility to contract for life insurance with the Federal Government up to a maximum of \$5,000 to any one veteran of World War I. No policies were issued after Aug. 31, 1933. There were 48,319 policies issued during the eight years in which the Act was open amounting to \$109,299,500 and, of these, there were 6,124 in force with a value of \$13,152,060 on Dec. 31, 1966.

The Veterans Insurance Act (RSC 1952, c. 279 as amended) enables veterans following their discharge and widows of those who died during World War II service to contract with the Federal Government for a maximum of \$10,000 life insurance. Veterans with