

Section 3.—Government Insurance

Federal Government Insurance

In recent years, various insurance schemes have been adopted by the Federal Government or undertaken co-operatively by the federal and provincial governments. Information on unemployment insurance, hospital insurance, veterans insurance, export credits insurance, etc., will be found in the appropriate Chapters on Labour, Health and Welfare, Foreign Trade, etc.

Provincial Government Insurance

Saskatchewan.—The Saskatchewan Government Insurance Office, a Crown corporation established by the Saskatchewan Government Insurance Act, 1944, commenced business in May 1945. It deals in all types of insurance other than sickness and life. The aim of the legislation is to provide residents of the province with low-cost insurance designed for their particular needs. Rates are based on loss experience in Saskatchewan only and the surplus is invested, to the extent possible, within the province. Premium income for 1966 amounted to \$12,489,743 and earned surplus to \$601,795. The total amount made available to The Government Finance Office of the Province of Saskatchewan from 1945 to Dec. 31, 1966 was \$6,144,564. Assets at the latter date were \$26,382,095, of which \$12,500,000 were invested in bonds and debentures issued by the Province of Saskatchewan and by Saskatchewan schools, municipalities and hospitals. Independent insurance agents numbering 625 sell government insurance throughout the province.

The Automobile Accident Insurance Act, administered by the Saskatchewan Government Insurance Office on behalf of the provincial government, provides a comprehensive automobile accident insurance plan for the protection of the public in this province. Premiums paid by motorists create a fund from which benefits are paid in the event of death, injuries and damages sustained in automobile accidents. Any surplus over payments is used to increase benefits, reduce premiums, or absorb deficits in periods of high accident frequency. The surplus is not transferable to the general operations of the Saskatchewan Government Insurance Office, nor is any surplus credited to the provincial government. The plan provides for public liability insurance, with an inclusive limit of \$35,000 for bodily injury and property damage, as well as comprehensive and collision coverage subject to a \$200 deductible for private passenger cars. Rates vary from \$4 a year for older farm trucks to \$74 for late-model private passenger cars, and also vary for other types of motor vehicles depending on size and usage. From the inception of the Act in 1946 to Dec. 31, 1966, more than \$109,000,000 was paid in claims.

The Saskatchewan Government Insurance Office, under contract with the Saskatchewan Department of Natural Resources, offers insurance to farmers covering damage to unharvested crops by certain wildlife such as ducks, geese, sandhill cranes, deer, elk, bear and antelope.

Information regarding the operation of the Saskatchewan Government Insurance Office or the Automobile Accident Insurance Act may be obtained from the Office Librarian, Saskatchewan Government Insurance Office, Regina, Sask.

Alberta.—Provincial government insurance in Alberta, coming within the purview of the Alberta Insurance Act, relates (1) to the Alberta General Insurance Company, in which the entire business of the fire branch of the Alberta Government Insurance Office was vested by the Legislature on Mar. 31, 1948, and (2) to the Life Insurance Company of Alberta, which was constituted on the same date to take over the life branch of the Alberta Government Insurance Office. Each company is administered by a separate board of directors. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council appoints the members to the respective boards but the charter of the Life Insurance Company of Alberta provides for the election of two policyholder directors. Although both companies are Crown corporations, they are not entitled to the usual immunities of the Crown, since they may sue and be sued in any court of competent jurisdiction.