

Social Services.—The Social Service Division of the Department maintains a small corps of trained social workers who are employed in a variety of ways. They act primarily as consultants to other staff in dealing with problems of social adjustment affecting veterans and their dependants, or give direct service in complex cases. They are especially concerned with maintaining liaison, for referral purposes, with welfare departments at all levels of government and with other philanthropic agencies. They assist in the work of the War Veterans Allowance District Authorities and other departmental committees concerned with welfare matters and also supervise Branch services to dependants of members of the Armed Forces. On request by the Department of National Defence, the Division furnishes reports on home circumstances of service personnel who encounter some domestic emergency. When the problem cannot be solved by counselling or referral to a source of help in the community, these reports assist the Department of National Defence in deciding whether compassionate leave, posting or discharge is indicated. During 1960 and 1961, the Social Service Division handled 13,629 and 12,405 requests, respectively, for service from all sources. This reduction was attributable to staff shortages rather than to a decrease in demand for services.

Assistance Fund (WVA).—The Assistance Fund (War Veterans Allowances) Regulations authorize supplementary payments to recipients under the War Veterans Allowance Act (pp. 288-290) who are living in Canada and are in need and whose incomes are lower than the maximum allowed by that statute. Assistance may be given as a continuing monthly grant in accordance with a formula which includes costs of shelter, fuel, food, clothing, personal care and certain health needs, or as single grants to meet emergencies. Amendments to the Act, effective June 1, 1961, required a review of every case in receipt of the continuing monthly Assistance Fund grant. The formula used in determining monthly grant requirements was also reviewed and the dollar value of individual items increased in accordance with price index changes since the previous review in 1957. Certain monthly grants had to be adjusted because basic allowances were increased from \$70 to \$84 and from \$120 to \$144 for single and married recipients, respectively. However, because of a corresponding increase in income ceilings, more assistance could be provided where need was evident. The maximum annual supplement available was raised from \$240 to \$288 for single recipients and from \$300 to \$360 for married recipients.

The administration of the Fund is directed by a committee, of which the Deputy Minister is chairman. Applications are dealt with and grants authorized by district authorities in local offices of the Department in accordance with general instructions issued by the Assistance Fund Committee. The following statement summarizes activity of the Fund during 1960 and 1961. Since monthly grants may be continued from year to year, the number of persons assisted in a given period is greater than the number applying.

<u>Item</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1960</u>
Persons assisted.....	No. 19,695	19,558
Persons applying during year.....	“ 5,333	7,051
Applicants assisted.....	“ 4,599	6,303
Proportion of applicants assisted.....	p. c. 86	89
Fund expenditures during year.....	\$ 2,883,269	2,964,757
Proportion of expenditures given in monthly grants.....	p. c. 92	91
Persons in receipt of continuing monthly grants.....	No. 13,206	15,290

Older Veterans.—Details of the Department’s work on behalf of the aging veteran population are given in the 1961 Year Book, pp. 294-296. During 1961 there were no significant changes in the services and benefits available to older veterans and their dependants. The co-operation and goodwill of industrial and commercial organizations and the hiring policy of government agencies have resulted in the Corps of Commissionaires being able to maintain its position as the largest Canadian employer of older war veterans. Officials of the Welfare Services Branch of the Department continue to participate actively with agencies and committees dealing with the problems of older citizens and veterans.