

Social Services.—The Social Service Division of the Department maintains a small corps of trained social workers who act primarily as consultants to other staff in dealing with problems of social adjustment affecting veterans and their dependants, but may 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 Branch 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 1961 and 1962, the Social Service Division handled 12,405 and 9,160 requests, respectively, for service from all sources.

Assistance Fund (WVA).—The Assistance Fund (War Veterans Allowances) Regulations authorize supplementary payments to recipients under the War Veterans Allowance Act (pp. 325-326) 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. The maximum annual supplement available is \$288 for single recipients and \$360 for recipients at the married rate of allowance.

The administration of the Fund is directed by the Assistance Fund 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 Committee. The following statement summarizes activity of the Fund during 1961 and 1962. 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>1962</u>
Persons assisted..... No.	19,695	18,264
Persons applying during year..... "	5,333	5,719
Applicants assisted..... "	4,599	5,013
Proportion of applicants assisted..... p.c.	86	88
Fund expenditures during year..... \$	2,883,269	3,105,042
Proportion of expenditures given in monthly grants..... p.c.	92	90
Persons in receipt of continuing monthly grants..... No.	13,206	14,230

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. Services and benefits for older veterans and their dependants are an increasing activity of the Department. 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.

Educational Assistance to Children of War Dead.—The Children of War Dead (Education Assistance) Act* is designed to help with the cost of post-secondary education for the children of those whose deaths have been attributed to military service. Eligible children may be assisted with the cost of training in Canada at any educational institution which requires high school graduation, matriculation or equivalent standing for admission. This includes not only universities and colleges, but also such facilities as hospital nursing schools and provincial technological institutes.

* A detailed study of this Act is given in the 1962 Year Book, pp. 282-283.