

Old Age Pensions Branch and Pensions for the Blind.—The Province has been co-operating in the Dominion-Provincial Old Age Pension plan since Aug. 1, 1929, and with the amendment to the Act providing for the payment of pensions to blind persons since Mar. 1, 1938. For statistics, see pp. 797-798.

Mothers' Allowance Branch.—The Mothers' Allowance Act was passed in 1919 and became effective in that year. For statistics see pp. 802-804.

Homes for Aged or Infirm Act.—This Act came into effect on Mar. 28, 1945, and provides for the payment of a grant to municipalities maintaining either aged or infirm residents in licensed homes.

British Columbia.—Welfare Services operated by the Province come under the administration of the Provincial Secretary's Department. Such services include:—

- (1) Child Welfare.
- (2) Mothers' Allowances.
- (3) Social (family and individual) Allowances.
- (4) Industrial Schools.
- (5) School for the Deaf and Blind.
- (6) Home for the Aged and Provincial Homes.
- (7) Provincial Infirmaries.
- (8) Old Age Pensions.

In British Columbia all social workers—general, medical and psychiatric—are employed by, and come under, the direction of the Social Assistance Branch and are included in the Field Service Division. The general worker in the field is trained to do case work for all of the services mentioned above.

Medical services and prescribed drugs are provided for all types of social assistance cases. In organized municipalities the Province bears half the cost and in unorganized territory the whole cost.

Child Welfare.—The Child Welfare Division of the Social Assistance Branch is responsible for child welfare work and covers the protection of children, adoptions, placements in foster homes, children of unmarried parents, juvenile delinquency, etc. In Vancouver and Victoria the work is carried out in co-operation with Children's Aid Societies but elsewhere all activities are directly administered by the Branch.

Mothers' Allowances.—Mothers' Allowances are administered by the Social Assistance Branch, the Act being in force since July, 1920. For statistics see p. 804.

Social Allowances.—Social allowances are administered by the same Branch under the Social Assistance Act that came into force on Apr. 1, 1945. Under this Act provision is made for all those categories that are not otherwise dealt with. The Province contributes 80 p.c. of the cost for municipal cases.

Old Age Pensions and Pensions for the Blind.—Old Age Pensions are administered by a Board under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Secretary's Department and all social work is done by the Field Service Division of the Social Assistance Branch. Supplementary assistance is also being given to old age pensioners for the protection of their health and comfort. Pensions have been paid to blind persons since Dec. 1, 1937. For statistics see pp. 797-798.