

The Department administers the Provincial Housing Act which empowers the Province to enter into public housing projects under the National Housing Act, and to stimulate construction of low-rental housing projects by limited-dividend housing corporations.

Alberta.—The Department of Public Welfare is responsible for the administration of provincial welfare measures. It has branches at the four larger centres and inspectors are located in suitable areas throughout the Province.

Child Care and Protection.—The Provincial child welfare program is directed by a Child Welfare Commission composed of five members of whom the chairman is the Superintendent of the Child Welfare Branch. Neglected children, made wards of the Government by court order or by agreement, may be placed in foster homes, adoptive homes or institutions. The cost of maintenance of wards is paid by the Province which recovers 40 p.c. of such cost from the municipality of residence. The Home Investigating Committee is responsible for the inspection and the licensing, where required, of all homes and institutions in which children are given care. The Attorney General's Department administers legislation regarding juvenile delinquency.

Care of the Aged.—Provincial grants equalling one-third of the cost or \$500 a bed, whichever is the lesser, may be made to municipalities erecting or purchasing homes with ten or more beds for aged or infirm persons. The Province also meets up to one-half of the cost incurred by municipalities for the maintenance of aged and infirm persons in homes licensed by the municipality in accordance with specified standards.

Social Assistance.—Municipalities are responsible for assistance to indigent residents but the Province is authorized to make grants to the municipalities of up to 60 p.c. of the value of the assistance. The Province, through the Department of Municipal Affairs, pays the total cost of assistance granted to transients and to residents of unorganized districts, subject to a refund of 40 p.c. from the districts. Families may be assisted through settlement on suitable farm lands. The Single Men's Division maintains two hostels and one welfare centre to care for unemployable, single, homeless men without municipal domicile. Single ex-servicemen are cared for at Calgary and Edmonton without being placed in institutions. The Province has also established nine *métis* colonies where settlers have extensive fishing, hunting and trapping rights and are encouraged to engage in lumbering, agriculture and stock-raising. Educational services are provided and government operated stores sell goods at cost price.

Widows and Disabled Persons Pensions.—Under the Widows Pension Act, widows aged 60 to 64 years inclusive may receive pensions of up to \$40 per month. Also included in this category are wives of husbands committed to mental hospitals or deserted wives who meet the conditions of need and residence and are within the designated age group.

Since 1953 the Provincial Government has provided pensions for needy disabled persons; since Jan. 1, 1955 Alberta has participated in the new federal-provincial scheme which provides allowances for the totally and permanently disabled (*see pp. 287-288*).

British Columbia.—The administration of provincial welfare services by the Social Welfare Branch of the Department of Health and Welfare is decentralized through district and municipal offices in six regions covering the whole Province. Generalized field service is provided by provincial social workers. The staff of the Social Welfare Branch is also responsible for welfare services required in connection with a number of programs operated by the Health Branch.

Cities and municipalities of over 10,000 population must have their own social welfare departments to administer the social assistance program and to provide case-work services. The Province pays 50 p.c. of the salaries of municipal social workers or, where more than one is needed, matches the municipal appointees, worker for worker. Smaller municipalities may have their own or amalgamated social welfare departments or they may pay for the services of the Social Welfare Branch.