PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Annual Report of

The Social Assistance Branch

of the

Department of the Provincial Secretary

For the Year ended March 31st

1946

VICTORIA, B.C.:
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1947.

VICTORIA, B.C., November 25th, 1946.

To His Honour C. A. BANKS,
Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

The Annual Report of the Social Assistance Branch for the year ended March 31st, 1946, is herewith respectfully submitted.

GEORGE S. PEARSON,
Minister of Health and Welfare.

Office of the Minister of Health and Welfare,
Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C.

SOCIAL WELFARE BRANCH,
VICTORIA, B.C., November 25th, 1946.

The Honourable G. S. Pearson,
Minister of Health and Welfare, Victoria, B.C.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Social Assistance Branch for the year ended March 31st, 1946.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

E. W. GRIFFITH,
Deputy Minister of Welfare.

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REPORT OF THE SOCIAL ASSISTANCE BRANCH.

VICTORIA, B.C., November 21st, 1946.

E. W. Griffith, Esq.,
Deputy Minister of Welfare.

SIR,—I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report of the Social Assistance Branch for the year ended March 31st, 1946. Following the procedure of last year the reports of the various divisions comprising the Social Assistance Branch will be found in the pages following.

It is not my intention to deal in detail with the report of any particular division, as the heads of divisions will have drawn attention to the items particularly referring to their administrations. I should, however, like to make a few comments of a general nature.

The year under review has been momentous in that after six years of war and having disposed ourselves to meet the problems engendered thereby, we find ourselves coping with other difficulties arising after the cessation of hostilities. During the war years employment opportunities were presented as probably never before in our history. These were readily grasped by many partially employable persons who previously were in receipt of some form of assistance. The demand for workers being so great, considerable number of teen-age children found the lure of a pay envelope stronger than continuing their education, and many wives and mothers whose main interests had heretofore been in caring for their homes and families accepted employment. Such opportunities for these types of persons are naturally not now so numerous. The return of husbands and fathers after long absences in the forces presents its own distinctive problems. It must be borne in mind that in many instances these men are returning to their homes almost as strangers. From this it will be seen that problems, both economic and social, are presented. Many adjustments are necessary, and the adjustment period varies greatly. It has been and is our duty and privilege to grant financial assistance where required and render all other help possible to these families in their difficult situations. Our Family Services Division and Child Welfare Division, where children are involved, appear to be the ones feeling the greatest impact of the transition from war to peace.

The "Social Assistance Act" came into operation during the year, and the regulations thereto promulgated. This legislation is progressive in its intent and coverage and has met with general acceptance throughout the Province. Some municipalities have, however, voiced objection to their financial participation. With a better knowledge of the Act and experience in its application, I feel their objections will be withdrawn.

Our relations with the departments of the Federal Government with which we come in contact remain cordial. Over the past few years we have made contacts for the Dependents' Allowance Board, Dependents' Board of Trustees, etc. These are of course rapidly decreasing, but at the request of the Department of National Health and Welfare, we agreed to obtain further information as required in the administration of Family Allowances in this Province. In this particular phase of our work we often call upon municipal social workers or private agencies where it would appear they could, with advantage to all concerned, make the contacts. The co-operation received from the municipalities and private agencies is acknowledged with appreciation. At this point I feel I should mention that in determining the amount of social assistance to be granted a family, Family Allowances are not considered as income.

Staff problems have been many, and are dealt with by the Assistant Director of Welfare in her report. In the coming year I am hopeful that field staff will be available in numbers sufficient to enable the too heavy case-loads to be reduced and to permit the extension of our services to some extent.

In considering plans for the future, many discussions have taken place on our method of supervision of workers. It appears to be the concensus of opinion that our supervision must be decentralized to permit the best possible utilization of the services of our field staff and to render most efficient service.

I wish to again express my appreciation of the assistance and co-operation I have received from various municipal officials, the heads of divisions, supervisors, and social workers. In spite of many difficulties our field staff has remained loyal and industrious and have, in my opinion, completed a year of commendable work. The experience we have gained since the formation of the Social Assistance Branch will greatly aid us in meeting the problems, old and new, in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted.

C. W. LUNDY,
Director of Welfare.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF WELFARE.

Major emphasis was given during this year to the stabilizing of the rural district staff and supplying the acute needs of the divisional offices for supervisors. There were more transfers of staff than is desirable, but these, nevertheless, have been necessary in every instance. In view of the number of resignations the appointments made during the year have provided only a slight easing of the pressures on both field service staff and the divisional supervisors.

Case-loads have grown rather than lessened. The increase may be attributable to family disorganization which inevitably arises in war-time, to our ageing population which has been able to make little provision for retirement, to the disabilities of those suffering from chronic disease, and in no small way to the work done by the staff in interpreting to the general public the services the Provincial Government is providing. Additional staff in the field and new cases accepted for service placed greater responsibility on the supervisors in divisional offices, who must review and sanction each case carried and at the same time give the social worker in the district advice on the proper handling of difficult situations. This has meant that divisional staffs had to be increased, and to some extent the field staff has been drawn upon to supply this need.

Added to the divisions of the Social Assistance Branch, whose social work personnel is provided by the general administration, has been the Psychiatric Division (Provincial Mental Hospital and Child Guidance Clinic), the Old-age Pension Board, and the Boys' Industrial School. When qualified staff can be found, the Girls' Industrial School and the Provincial Infirmary will also be added. This provides that the social workers employed within the Provincial Secretary's Department are under the jurisdiction of the general administration of the Social Assistance Branch, thus co-ordinating the supervision of the general work done by the field staff and making for unity of purpose in social welfare services and planning. Applications for positions from qualified social workers have fallen far short of our needs, and for this reason in-service training for carefully recruited staff has continued throughout the year. Two three-month courses given were comprised principally of men from the armed forces and included social workers from two municipalities. The statistics given below closely follow the set-up of last year's report in order that comparisons may easily be made.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

During the year under review district offices were opened at Quesnel and Salmon Arm. Due to shortage of staff the Williams Lake office was closed during the year and Smithers remained closed.

PERSONNEL.

Actual appointments made during the year totalled forty-two. To offset this there were twenty-eight resignations, which means an actual increase of only fourteen. Six members of the staff were given leave of absence—one to join the armed forces and five to return to university for further study. The following figures show the number of social workers in both divisional and district offices:—

	Staff as at April 1st, 1945.			Staff as at March 31st, 1946.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
District offices	28	36	64	35	36	71
Regional supervisors	4	....	4	5	....	5
	32	36	68	40	36	76
Divisional offices	3	27	30	5	35	40
Totals	35	63	98	45	71	116

Taking the above figures at their face value, it would appear there is an increase of eighteen instead of fourteen, but this is due to the return of several members of our staff from the armed forces who inadvertently were not shown in last year's figures.

In addition to divisional offices shown last year, the Boys' Industrial School, Psychiatric Division, and Old-age Pensions have been added. The total of forty as at March 31st, 1946, in divisional offices is made up as follows:—

General Administration	2
Child Welfare Division	13
Social Allowances, etc.	4
Old-age Pensions	2
Psychiatric Division	6
Division of Tuberculosis Control	7
Division of Venereal Disease Control	1
Research Consultant	1
Training Supervisor	1
Temporary war services	2
Boys' Industrial School	1
Total	40

MUNICIPAL STAFF.

At the end of the fiscal year there were twenty-one Provincial district offices and, in addition, there were four municipal offices under our scheme of staff amalgamation with a staff of twenty-two social workers. Visits have been made to every district office in the Province.

MUNICIPALITIES.

One of the objects of the "Social Assistance Act" is to provide, with the co-operation of the local municipal government, a uniform service to all people of this Province who are eligible for such service. The regulations call for the following:—

(1.) Each municipality with a population of 10,000 or over as at the latest Federal census is required to employ at least one social worker on a full-time basis and such additional ones as may be determined by the Director on a case-load basis.

(2.) Each municipality with less than 10,000 population as at the latest Federal census shall either employ a full-time social worker or arrange with the Social Assistance Branch of the Department of the Provincial Secretary to undertake social work within the municipality, the Social Assistance Branch to be reimbursed on the basis of 15 cents *per capita* of the population per annum, the municipality to provide office services.

(3.) Where the case-load warrants the employment of more than one social worker, the Social Assistance Branch may either assign to duty in a municipality an equivalent number of social workers or reimburse the municipality 50 per cent. of the cost of salaries paid to municipal social workers and 50 per cent. of the cost where a municipality is required to employ only one social worker.

(4.) Where two or more municipalities desire to operate social administrative services on an amalgamated basis, they may arrange for apportionment of the cost as between municipalities on a population or a case-load basis, but for purposes of reimbursement by the Social Assistance Branch under the provisions of the preceding subsections, the amalgamated area may be treated as a unit.

(5.) Salary reimbursements to municipalities shall be limited to 50 per cent. of the salary paid to Provincial social workers under departmental schedules.

(6.) In each municipality there shall be an officer responsible for administering social assistance.

At the end of our fiscal year three municipalities had agreed to employ their own workers, four were on a worker-for-worker basis and twenty-five on 15-cents-*per-capita* basis. There are sixty-three municipalities in British Columbia, but as the Act has only been in operation for a very short time, it will be some months before all agreements are completed. In addition to municipal offices, there are twenty-one Provincial social assistance offices throughout the Province.

CASE-LOADS.

The case-loads reported from the field for the month of March, 1946, were as follows:—

Social Assistance Branch—	
Social Allowance	5,505
Mothers' Allowance	953
Family Services	489
Old-age Pension	17,503
Child Welfare Division	3,340
Provincial Board of Health—	
Tuberculosis Division	486
Venereal Disease Division	9
Hospitals and Institutions—	
Mental Hospital	403
Child Guidance Clinic	58
Hospital clearance	15
Welfare institutions	46
Provincial Infirmary	33
Collections	42
Federal services—	
Dependents' Board of Trustees	127
Dependents' Allowance Board	21
Directorate of Social Science	30
War Veterans' Allowance	6
Total	29,066

The number of cases worked on for the Federal Government for the twelve months' period amounted to 3,946. The average case-load carried by the district workers (Provincial and municipal) as at March 31st, 1946, was 320, as against 341 at the beginning of the fiscal year.

SUPERVISORS' COUNCIL.

The Supervisors' Council, composed of the officials from each division, has continued to meet monthly and give valuable help and counsel to the general administration. A sub-committee of the Council was set up to assist the staff from the divisions who are responsible for the direct supervision of the field staff. The function of this committee was to study methods of supervision practised by each division in order to obtain uniformity. A second sub-committee was appointed to study and develop a new policy manual. This committee has done valuable work in this regard, and it is expected that the policy manual will be issued within the next year.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT.

Two three-month in-service training courses were conducted in the year under review. The first, from October 1st to December 30th, 1945, included ten students. The second course, from February 25th to May 6th, 1946, was composed of eight individuals, of whom two were from municipalities.

Graduates from schools of social work who joined our staff had a minimum of six weeks' orientation in district offices adjacent to Vancouver before being placed in district offices throughout the Province.

PUBLICATIONS.

The Resources Manual (Provincial Section) was published; 318 copies have been distributed to our own staff and other departments of the Government and interested individuals. Our staff bulletin was published every two months and increased its publication from 245 copies to 313.

Various articles of an interpretive nature were prepared for publication in other periodicals. Additions to the library were continued and widely circulated.

CONFERENCES.

Three staff members attended the Annual Pacific North-west Institute of the Family Welfare Association of America at Shawnigan Lake from July 30th to August 4th. A regional conference was held in Kamloops in May, 1945, at which a case-work institute was given by Miss Marjorie Smith, head of the Department of Social Work. Regional Supervisors' Conference was held in Victoria in January, 1946, to discuss plans for decentralization.

STUDENT PLACEMENT.

Psychiatric, Tuberculosis, and Child Welfare Divisions provided field-work for nine students, and ten students received their field-work in our district offices.

It may be said that the work of the past year has been directed to perfecting as far as possible our department as a whole. From evaluation of standards of work, staff needs, administration policies, and job analyses, it is possible to foresee the trends of the future. The work done in the early months of 1946 in preparation for the major operation of decentralizing administration leads us to predict that this objective will soon be realized.

Respectfully submitted.

AMY LEIGH,
Assistant Director of Welfare.

CHILD WELFARE DIVISION.

The fiscal year 1945–46 saw the end of six years of war in Europe and Asia. The exigencies of these war years made extraordinary demands on Governments, industries, families, and children, and the fields of both public and private social welfare alike felt the resulting impacts keenly. The Federal Government and all branches of the armed forces referred the problems of men in the services and their families to both public and private social agencies of the Province, and this responsibility was accepted by these agencies without question. The problems referred were not different to those referred to social agencies in peace-time, but they were made new and pressing by the many urgencies created by war.

Wives and mothers, finding the task of rearing children a difficult one with the husband and father away; children bewildered and alarmed by the insecurities of adults around them, and behaving in ways which in turn bewildered and alarmed not only the parents but the adult members of their community as well—all received what help we could give them. Young girls, able to find jobs away from their families, but unable to cope with the complexities of living in centres where large war industries or troop concentrations were located, came to us, and many children born out of wedlock for whom care must be provided were placed in our care either by the mothers themselves or by the Court.

Now, at April 1st, 1946, demobilization is well under way, and a world too long geared to the business of war is striving hard to focus its attention on peace-time activities. Social workers are becoming retrospective as to what has taken place within the social agencies during the past six years and as to what their rôle should be in this period of reconversion and rehabilitation.

The Social Assistance Branch, like all Provincial services, has undergone tremendous changes in these war years, and in this report we will try to set forth what some of these changes have meant to the services given to children by the Child Welfare Division and chart to some extent at least what its goals for the future should be.

Figures do not necessarily signify trends, nor are they always indicative of the standard of service rendered. However, in reviewing the number of families and children our workers have tried to serve and the service given, as well as the need for such services, we have been able to determine some of the gaps in our programme and to consider ways and means whereby these may be met in the future.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN.

During 1939–40, the first year of the war, the Child Welfare Division carried 1,239 "protection" cases, in which some form of family breakdown had occurred and the well-being of the 3,700 children involved was endangered. There were 558 "new" families referred that year. The first full year of war, 1940–41, showed a slight drop in the number of new families but a 27-per-cent. increase in the total families served; 1941–42 brought a 72.6-per-cent. increase in new referrals (725 families), and 1942–43 almost the same number. In 1943–44, 912 families were referred, and a total of 2,581 families with nearly 7,000 children were served. In this last full year of war we served more than twice the number of families as were served in the first.

With the formation of the Family Service Division of the Social Assistance Branch in 1944–45 our new cases dropped to 735, but the Child Welfare Division carried a peak load of 2,952 families, involving about 9,000 children. The Family Service Division has been in operation a full year now, and as a result the Child Welfare Division has accepted only those families in which the children were in need or likely to be in need of protection as defined by the "Protection of Children Act." The new "protection" cases in this past fiscal year numbered 444, but a total of 2,582 families with 4,144 children were served.

These 4,144 children were those whose families for one reason or another were not providing them adequate care and protection. In most instances some adjustment was made within the family or through relatives, thus enabling the children to remain within the family group. However, with 137 of the families the situation was so serious and urgent that the Child Welfare Division had to admit to care 200 of the children involved.

Last year's report recommended a more equitable distribution of costs between the Provincial Government and municipalities, and as a result the Government agreed to pay, as from October 1st, 1945, 80 per cent. of the *per capita* rate for non-ward care for children with municipal residence. This has been a tremendous help in our preventive work with children, and because municipalities need not be so concerned about "costs," they are, we feel, more interested in our efforts to strengthen family relationships.

However, municipalities are still finding the 100-per-cent. cost of ward care heavy, and particularly the smaller ones with less financial security. An order for maintenance was recently made against a municipality under the "Protection of Children Act" for a family of eight children, the oldest 13 years and the youngest a few months. The municipal officials recognized that the children had to be made wards of the Superintendent, but the cost of maintaining each child until it reaches the age of 18 is staggering when the municipality's financial resources are limited.

CASES CARRIED IN 1944–45 UNDER "PROTECTION OF CHILDREN ACT."

Region.	Carried over as at April 1st, 1945.	New.	Reopened.	Transferred in.	Closed.	Transferred out.	Child Placement.	Carried over as at April 1st, 1946.
1	334	66	26	24	220	27	64	139
2	951	232	57	42	738	42	122	380
3	292	58	14	16	173	18	63	126
4	171	27	5	13	113	8	46	49
5	152	61	9	32	112	32	38	72
Totals	1,900	444	111	127	1,356	127	333	766

"CHILDREN OF UNMARRIED PARENTS ACT."

We could find reason for alarm in our work with unmarried parents during these past six years if we stopped to consider only our case-load numbers. Since the Child Welfare Division is responsible for collections under the "Children of Unmarried Parents Act" in addition to case-work services, the total number of cases in any one year includes a large number of cases "carried over" from year to year for collection purposes. In the number of "new" cases only, therefore, can we attempt to estimate the increase of illegitimacy during these years.

The following is a table of new cases referred, and total cases known since April 1st, 1939:—

	New Cases.	Increase over 1939–40.	Increase over Preceding Year.	Total Cases as at March 31st.
		Per Cent.	Per Cent.	
1939–40	300	.....	.....	1,364
1940–41	360	20.00	20.00	1,438
1941–42	382	27.33	9.16	1,651
1942–43	492	64.00	28.79	1,908
1943–44	576	92.00	17.07	2,271
1944–45	573	91.00	0.52*	1,942
1945–46	500	66.66	12.73*	2,487

* Decrease.

It is difficult to estimate the meaning of these figures, and it would be unfair to do so without taking into consideration at least two important factors; namely, the spectacular increase in British Columbia's population during the war years, and the expansion of social services throughout the Province, which made it possible for unmarried mothers, who otherwise would not have been known to an agency, to seek and obtain help for herself and child. It would seem important at this time to remember that even an increase of 66.66 per cent. in six years represents a comparatively small group out of British Columbia's total population of young girls and women. Unmarried parenthood is usually a symptom of unstable or unsatisfying relationships in that young person's own home, and a good proportion of records show that these unmarried mothers' own parents were also known to social agencies because of unsatisfactory home conditions or relationships. If we are to curb illegitimacy, parents must be helped to realize how important a sound and happy family life is to their growing boys and girls.

A good deal of publicity has been given the reputed increase of unmarried mothers in their teens during the war years. A comparison of the age-groups of unmarried mothers known to us during the first three years of the war and this last year of war is rather interesting in this regard:—

	Under 19.	20–29.	30–39.	40–49.	50 and over.	Not given.	Total.
1939–40	109	165	17	4	2	3	300
1940–41	108	191	35	11	....	14	360
1941–42	68	243	53	6	....	12	382
1945–46	88	314	47	7	....	44	500

A further breakdown of the " under 19 " and " 20–29 " groups during this past year is also enlightening. Of the 88 " under 19," 4 were aged 14 and 15, 25 were 16 and 17, and 59 were 18 and 19. In the 314 between 20 to 30, 100 were 20 or 21, 141 were 22 to 25, and 73 were 26 to 30. Unfortunately we do not have the comparative figures in the " under 19 " group for the first three years, but it is apparent from the figures available that the bulk of unmarried mothers are in the normal child-bearing age-group, which is from 20 to 29.

The war years show an interesting increase in the number of illegitimate children born to women 25 to 35 years of age. Some are married women separated from their husbands by the circumstances of war and emotionally unable to stand the added responsibilities of being both mother and father to a family during the husband's absence. With the return of their husbands, their situation is a difficult one. Frequently they have had to choose between husband and the baby. The decision is invariably to relinquish the baby, but in many instances it has been a hard decision to make and has carried with it much heartbreak. We have placed many of these children in satisfactory adoption homes, and have been able to assist husbands and wives to a more satisfactory relationship by helping them to understand their problems more fully.

The teen-age unmarried mother presents a different and, in many ways, a more complicated problem, since frequently we cannot look to her own family for the support and help she needs. Too often they failed her during her growing-up years, and usually she must make plans for herself and her baby apart from the family group.

CASES CARRIED IN 1944–45 UNDER "CHILDREN OF UNMARRIED PARENTS ACT."

Pending.

Region.	Carried over as at April 1st, 1945.	New.	Reopened.	Transferred in.	Closed.	Transferred out.	Carried over as at April 1st, 1946.
1	128	82	3	9	101	19	102
2	398	287	4	37	427	58	241
3	59	34	.....	10	57	7	39
4	39	20	.....	4	26	6	31
5	64	24	1	6	54	12	29
Totals	688	447	8	66	665	102	442

Orders and Agreements.

1	61	9	1	13	20	10	54
2	266	31	3	36	99	26	211
3	48	5	.....	15	16	9	43
4	44	3	1	9	7	4	46
5	37	5	.....	2	10	6	28
Totals	456	53	5	75	152	55	382

COLLECTIONS UNDER THE "CHILDREN OF UNMARRIED PARENTS ACT."

Collections from putative fathers under the "Children of Unmarried Parents Act" have increased markedly during these six years, due to a large extent to the co-operation received from the Dependents' Allowance Board and Commanding Officers in the armed forces. There is a decrease this year, as expected, but it is also interesting to hear of putative fathers who, now demobilized from the forces, are of their own accord getting in touch with the workers to arrange for continued payments.

Collections during 1944–45 were two and a half times as much as in 1939–40, and in 1945–46 the statistics show almost the same increase.

1939–40	$13,928.35	1943–44	$35,614.63
1940–41	19,426.54	1944–45	34,013.48
1941–42	24,700.29	1945–46	32,012.75
1942–43	29,807.92		

What future collections will be, it is difficult to predict. This is dependent to a large extent upon how quickly reconversion to peace-time industries is achieved.

A change in thinking is apparent as we concentrate on our work with unmarried parents. We wonder as to the harmful effect of Court action under the "Children of Unmarried Parents Act" on a young unmarried mother or putative father. Again, when the putative father is a married man, how constructive is action against him if it results in hardship to his family and a widening of the breach between himself and his wife and children. If the putative father is young and single, it may seem right for him to contribute towards the support of his illegitimate child; but when he becomes older and wants to marry, too often his income is not sufficient to maintain a family and still continue his payment to the unmarried mother. Looking back over some of the cases we have known, we wonder how often such a situation has been a factor in causing young men to stay away from marriage and responsibility and to become "drifters" from one field of employment to another. We have also seen young unmarried mothers who have kept their babies, and have been promised monthly support from putative fathers which they did not get, grow bitter and vindictive as the years go by. All putative fathers do not pay regularly, and in many instances it becomes a sixteen-year task of reminding or compelling him to meet his monthly pay-

ments. In many cases it would seem best for all concerned if a cash settlement could be made in the beginning. This might enable both to establish permanent ties and lessen the possibility of limiting the fullness of their future lives because of an unwise relationship in their youth. There is need for research study in this field in order that we may learn of our shortcomings and as a result base our future practices and procedures on a better knowledge of the problem as it exists in British Columbia.

CHILDREN IN CARE.

Our Child Placement programme has perhaps undergone more change than any other during these years. Because in the past the majority of our children were cared for by Children's Aid Societies, it is not possible to give comparative figures for the past six years. However, a review of the foster-homes of the past two years and the children cared for in these homes does indicate the increased responsibility the Government has been prepared to assume for children who must be removed from their homes.

During 1944–45 we had about 200 approved foster-homes throughout the Province, with some 193 pending investigation and approval, and a total of 352 children were cared for throughout the year in Child Welfare Division foster-homes. During the past year we had 339 approved homes, with 108 pending, and during this year a total number of 456 children were cared for in our foster-homes. Of these, 204 were wards of the Superintendent of Child Welfare, 203 were non-wards, and 49 children cared for from other agencies.

As at April 1st, 1946, we had a total of 358 children in Child Welfare Division foster-homes: 194 were wards of the Superintendent of Child Welfare, 124 were non-wards, and 40 children from other agencies, as compared to April 1st, 1945, when we had 178 wards, 108 non-wards, and 33 children from other agencies.

Certainly our service to children cannot be evaluated by the numbers in care. In fact, the increased numbers give us cause for serious thought as to why children are being taken into care, and what the results of placement have been to the children concerned. We are giving careful thought to every request for admission of a child to care in order to be quite certain that everything possible has been done to enable that child to remain with his own family, and also to determine whether or not we have at our disposal the particular type of care required to meet that child's particular needs. If not, why remove him? It is, however, almost impossible under our present system of supervision to give our workers in the field the help and guidance they need in meeting the difficult problems they encounter in this respect.

A brief review of the 44 children admitted from 30 families during January, February, and March, 1946, gives a vivid picture of some of these problems. Under our present system of supervision from divisional office there is no question but that each of these 44 children had to be admitted to care. However, if our supervisors were in district office, our case-work services to families would be improved, and it is possible that some children now removed would be able to remain in their homes under supervision. Of the 44 children admitted to care during the three months referred to, 14 were illegitimate; 4 of these were children of unmarried mothers and 3 were born to married women by men other than their husbands. These 7 children were in our care for short periods only, pending either adoption placement or completion of the mother's own plans for care of her child. The remaining 7 illegitimate children were born of so-called "common-law unions." One of these children, a boy of 14, had been born to his mother prior to her present marriage and had for years been a source of contention between the mother and the stepfather. At the time the family became known to this district worker, the child was in serious difficulties in the community and had to be removed.

Of the 30 remaining children, 29 were legitimate and 1 had been legally adopted some years ago. This boy's adoptive mother had died, and following his adoptive

father's remarriage, there was constant friction in the family, with the result that this boy developed some serious behaviour problems and had to be removed. Apparently he has adjusted well in his new foster-home, but will require careful supervision if the damage wrought by those years of unhappiness is to be overcome. Among the 29 legitimate children, only 10 were living with both own parents. The remaining 19 children came from twelve broken homes. The parents of 9 children were separated; the parents of 2 were divorced; 1 was the child of a widower; 4 children of one family had to be taken into care when their sole surviving parent was sent to jail; 2 were orphans; 1 infant had to be placed when the mother was committed to the Provincial Mental Hospital, the father having placed the 4 other children with relatives who were unable to take this small baby.

Of the 10 children living with both parents, 2 from two families were committed to the Superintendent of Child Welfare under the " Juvenile Delinquents Act "; another child, who was previously committed to the Girls' Industrial School from her home, was placed in a foster-home upon parole because her own home was not suitable for her return; 2 children from two families were made wards of the Superintendent of Child Welfare because of serious neglect; another of the 10 children was a 14-year-old unmarried mother who came into care pending confinement; and 4 were children taken into care temporarily because of the sudden illness of the mother.

These are all serious family situations, and we are finding it increasingly difficult to give to the district workers the help and direction required. Only when we achieve supervision of workers in district offices will we be in a position to say with certainty that all that could had been done to make it possible for a child to remain with his own family.

Supervision of children in foster-homes and help for our foster-parents suffers greatly under our present system. We are aware daily of gaps in our child-care programme, but not until the method of supervision of workers in the field is improved, thus raising the standards of job performance throughout the Province, would it be advisable to develop a type of care to complement our foster-home programme.

We continue to use the services of the three Children's Aid Societies for receiving-homes for children admitted to care from areas near Vancouver and Victoria, and for children requiring special care or attention. One hundred and eighty-five children were cared for in this way during the fiscal year; of these, 130 were non-wards in care for temporary periods and 55 wards of the Superintendent of Child Welfare. In addition, 2 wards of the Superintendent of Child Welfare were committed to the Provincial Mental Hospital, 3 to the Boys' Industrial School, while 6 wards went to relatives in other Provinces. By reciprocal arrangement we assumed responsibility for supervision of 7 wards of other Provinces now living in British Columbia with relatives or foster-parents.

In total we assumed responsibility for 657 children during the fiscal year and, as at April 1st, 1946, continued responsibility for 490 children.

FOSTER-HOMES CARRIED, 1945–46.

Region.	Carried over as at April 1st, 1945.	New.	Reopened.	Transferred in.	Closed.	Transferred out.	Carried over as at April 1st, 1946.
1	70	48	.....	.....	29	.....	89
2	81	40	.....	2	35	1	87
3	140	41	.....	.....	35	.....	146
4	66	38	3	.....	27	1	79
5	36	22	.....	4	12	4	46
Totals	393	189	3	6	138	6	447

Approved	339
Not approved	252
Total	591

FAMILY ALLOWANCES.

In July, 1945, the Federal "Family Allowances Act" became effective, and children in foster-homes were termed eligible. Since that time we have issued 1,611 cheques to foster-mothers, and disbursed $13,329. The allowance is used for foster-children in the same way as it is used for children in their own homes; it is not applied to maintenance or credited to municipalities. Family Allowances are a real resource in our work with children. Through it some are being taught the use of bank accounts, others are being given an opportunity to develop talents in instrument-playing, singing, dancing, or, as in one instance, even boxing. Still others have been able to buy a much-coveted bicycle, wagon, or skates. Foster-parents are eager to use this money thoughtfully and in the interests of the children in their care. One child was in hospital for some time, and the foster-parents, recognizing how important it would be for him to feel "remembered," used the Family Allowances cheque to pay for bus fare to see him weekly. Beyond the price of any gift they might bring him was the knowledge that his foster mother and father had not forgotten him, and wanted him to get well and come "home." Yes, Family Allowances for foster-children are constructive. We acknowledge with thanks the helpful co-operation we have received from the British Columbia Regional Family Allowances Office.

ADOPTIONS.

We feel that the increase in adoption placement work indicates that sound and acceptable practices of child care have been developed in British Columbia in this field throughout the years. It is difficult to estimate the number of private placements made in a year, since many do not come to our attention before legal notification of intention to adopt is submitted, and this may be some time after the child has been placed in the home. However, an increasing number of requests for children for adoption are being received by the Division and the Children's Aid Societies, and prospective adopting parents generally seem more eager to obtain children from recognized social agencies.

Last year's report referred to a policy we hoped to form with hospitals, through the Inspector of Hospitals, whereby we would be notified of all illegitimate births occurring in hospitals. This was achieved this year, and while it is too soon to estimate the number of private placements this policy has averted, we are confident that we are reaching a number of unmarried mothers who otherwise would not know of available services and might, from necessity, arrange a private adoption placement. Too often such placements are made soon after the baby's birth and before the mother is in a position to consider her resources and know definitely what she wants and is able to do for her child. In a number of these referrals, the mother had thought vaguely of adoption placement but did not know where to go. In others, adoption placement was being asked because of the lack of finances. During the war years when employment was easy to find and wages were high, fewer unmarried mothers wished to relinquish their children for adoption. Now that the more highly paid jobs are no longer available, an increasing number of mothers, apparently fearful of the economic factors as well as the social, are asking adoption placement of their babies.

During the past fiscal year the Child Welfare Division placed 35 children in approved adoption homes throughout the Province, and the three Children's Aid Societies 121. Unfortunately comparative figures for the preceding five years are not available, but this is thought to be about a 30-per-cent. increase over any past year.

During the six years there has been a 61.81-per-cent. increase in completed adoptions and a consistent increase in requests for children for adoption.

Completed adoptions, 1939 to date:—

1939–40	126	1943–44	234
1940–41	160	1944–45	292
1941–42	157	1945–46	330
1942–43	144		

The following table gives a rather graphic picture of the number of children in adoption homes and the number of adoption applications received and studied during the past six years:—

	Adoption Homes.	Children in Homes.
1939–40	163	253
1940–41	190	344
1941–42	216	534
1942–43	439	763
1943–44	518	1,043
1944–45	524	1,185
1945–46	635	1,351

As at April 1st, 1946, 748 children were under supervision in adoption homes, and 312 homes were awaiting placements.

Adoption Cases carried in 1945–46.

Children in Home.

Region.	Carried over as at April 1st, 1945.	New.	Reopened.	Transferred in.	Completed.	Closed.	Transferred out.	Carried over as at April 1st, 1946.
1	163	80	18	15	79	31	14	152
2	385	318	26	31	197	114	28	421
3	62	53	5	16	23	14	19	80
4	38	40	1	2	17	11	1	52
5	61	28	6	3	14	36	5	43
Totals	709	519	56	67	330	206	67	748

Approved Homes.

Region.	Carried over as at April 1st, 1945.	New.	Reopened.	Transferred in.	Closed.	Transferred out.	Carried over as at April 1st, 1946.
1	51	18	1	10	36	1	43
2	40	18	4	13	25	3	47
3	28	7	.....	22	14	11	32
4	26	7	.....	5	15	1	22
5	10	12	1	2	4	3	18
Totals	155	62	6	52	94	19	162

Homes waiting Approval.

1	60	22	1	2	43	10	32
2	52	60	5	2	55	10	54
3	37	22	3	12	25	22	27
4	21	19	1	1	17	5	20
5	24	13	2	1	21	2	17
Totals	194	136	12	18	161	49	150

OVERSEAS CHILDREN.

During the war years the public and private agencies of British Columbia cared for 211 overseas children as their quota of the total number brought to Canada under the auspices of the Children's Overseas Reception Board. The majority of these children have been returned to the United Kingdom during the past two years. As at April 1st, 1946, we have only 25 left in the Province; some of these are awaiting the arrival of their parents in Canada, others are completing their education before returning, and a few have found work and are remaining, by special arrangement, to establish themselves as citizens of Canada.

The placement and supervision of these overseas children was a unique and interesting experience; with few exceptions they responded well to placement. Much could be learned through research study of the methods and techniques used, not only in the placement and supervision of this group of children, but also of the study and choice of foster-homes used.

EXPENDITURES AND COLLECTIONS.

The increased volume of work carried by the Child Welfare Division during the past six years has meant an accompanying increase in expenditures. On the credit side, however, there has also been an increase in collections made from parents and municipalities. Cost of maintaining children in foster-homes is our largest expenditure and naturally reflects the increase in cost of living during the war.

The following tables show the number of days' care provided for children and paid for by the Provincial Government during the past six years, and also the amounts collected from parents and municipalities:—

CHILDREN CARED FOR IN CHILD WELFARE DIVISION FOSTER-HOMES.

	No. Days' Care.	Expenditures.	
1939–40	41,003	$23,233.94	
Collected	.....	1,527.83	
			$21,706.11
1940–41	42,119	$19,220.60	
Collected	.....	1,665.50	
			17,555.10
1941–42	42,301	$22,415.57	
Collected	.....	3,182.27	
			19,233.30
1942–43	49,415	$32,075.25	
Collected	.....	7,625.07	
			24,450.18
1943–44	52,762	$37,342.59	
Collected	.....	10,532.79	
			26,809.80
1944–45	69,637	$55,565.01	
Collected	.....	18,930.74	
			36,634.27
1945–46	94,513	$73,729.36	
Collected	.....	33,791.91	
			39,487.45

CHILDREN IN CARE OF THE THREE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES, CHARGEABLE TO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT.

	No. Days' Care.	Expenditures.	
1939–40	137,966	$99,632.33	
Collected		5,305.23	
			$94,327.10
1940–41	150,678	$111,881.64	
Collected		12,402.30	
			99,479.34
1941–42	161,078	$119,123.93	
Collected		17,359.26	
			101,764.67
1942–43	141,114	$126,201.17	
Collected		20,488.58	
			105,712.59
1943–44	148,746	$133,531.96	
Collected		21,795.96	
			111,736.00
1944–45	150,147	$143,636.52	
Collected		23,984.94	
			119,651.58
1945–46	151,335	$150,926.07	
Collected		25,808.20	
			125,117.87

A comparison of the changes in *per capita per diem* rates during these years gives a graphic picture of the increase in cost of living, and also tells something of the improved supervision given.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES PER CAPITA PER DIEM RATES.

	Vancouver.	Catholic.	Victoria.
1940	$0.74	$0.72	$0.72
1941	.757	.73	.69
1942	.887	.7809	.87
1943	.907	.9006	.928
1944	.953	.9881	.917
1945	.99	.984	.9466

STAFF CHANGES.

The staff changes in the Child Welfare Division during these years are, we feel, indicative of the desire on the part of the Government to provide the best possible care and supervision for children who must be reared apart from their own families.

In 1939–40 the staff of the Child Welfare Division comprised the Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent, three social workers, and five clerical staff members. In 1945–46, following our decision to establish "specialized" sections within the Division, we had, besides the Superintendent and the Deputy, a supervisor as the head of each of the four sections (Protection, Placement, Adoption, Unmarried Mothers), and six social workers. The clerical staff numbered twenty-two—a head book-keeper and three assistants, a head filing clerk and two assistants, thirteen stenographers, one statistician, and one receptionist. This was a minimum staff to carry the volume of work and give the kind of service we hoped for.

During this past year we have reaffirmed our thinking on the value of the "specialized" sections as outlined in last year's report. It has not only made us more aware of what we are doing for children and families, but also has shown what we are not doing for them!

Divisional supervisors may give much time and thought to a particular child's difficulty or a family's difficulties, but unless the worker who is dealing with that family or child can have the full benefit of this thinking, it is of little avail. We are satisfied that the worker cannot be given this help by our present system of supervision by memo., and the Child Welfare Division, as other divisions, looks forward to the day when the policy of decentralization is set up.

The past six years have been full, and changes have taken place rapidly. In review, perhaps more than at the time the changes came about, we are aware of a gradual but definitely improved standard of service to families and children. Also, we are conscious of an increased desire on the part of Government to safeguard children and ensure them good health and educational facilities, and a safe childhood. During the depression years we learned what deprivation and years of discouragement can do to a family's morale. A high percentage of to-day's "problem parents" were children of that era. During the war years we learned anew of the innate courage and fearlessness of youth. In our pride in them we seemed to become more aware of how important to the future of our country are the children of our various communities.

We have endeavoured in this report to set out some of the things the Child Welfare Division has done in an effort to foster this awareness in communities, and to outline future plans which would ensure increased help and guidance to families and more thoughtful care and training for children apart from their parents. "In our children rests our future" is a true and vital statement. They are to-morrow's parents, and their ideals and attitudes will shape our future destiny.

A review of the work of the Child Welfare Division during the war years would be incomplete without an expression of appreciation of the way in which the three Children's Aid Societies of this Province accepted increased responsibilities throughout this period. Out of this war experience has come a knowledge that with the rapid development in the field of public welfare there is need for the private agency to clarify its future function. The three Children's Aid Societies of British Columbia are cognizant of this, and are planning future policies and practices which will allow each agency to continue to make a maximum contribution to the total child welfare services in this Province and the Dominion.

SUMMARY OF TOTAL CASES CARRIED DURING YEAR 1945–46.

Region.	"Protection of Children Act."	Foster-homes.	Adoption.			"Unmarried Parents Act."	
			Child in Home.	Approved Home.	Home waiting Approval.	Pending.	Orders and Agreements.
1	450	118	276	80	85	222	84
2	1,282	123	760	75	119	726	336
3	380	181	136	57	74	103	68
4	216	107	81	38	42	63	57
5	254	62	98	25	40	95	44
Totals	2,582	591	1,351	275	360	1,209	589

RUBY MCKAY,
Superintendent of Child Welfare.

COLLECTOR OF INSTITUTIONAL REVENUE.

I submit herewith report of the activities of this office for the fiscal year April 1st, 1945, to March 31st, 1946.

PROVINCIAL TUBERCULOSIS UNITS.

Total Admissions, Deaths, and Discharges, Department of Veterans' Affairs, Provincial, and Municipal.

Month.	Admissions.				Deaths.				Discharges.			
	D.V.A.	Mun.	Prov.	Total.	D.V.A.	Mun.	Prov.	Total.	D.V.A.	Mun.	Prov.	Total.
1945.												
April	8	48	22	78	.....	7	3	10	11	35	12	58
May	11	33	24	68	2	10	3	15	14	25	18	57
June	12	46	15	73	2	10	8	20	11	30	10	51
July	19	32	20	71	.....	6	4	10	8	41	13	62
August	22	66	21	109	4	12	6	22	8	25	10	43
September	11	41	19	71	.....	10	5	15	8	25	7	40
October	14	30	10	54	.....	13	3	16	14	25	14	53
November	32	43	19	94	1	10	5	16	18	32	7	57
December	18	40	24	82	2	5	7	14	17	38	13	68
1946.												
January	24	35	12	71	1	8	5	14	11	22	12	45
February	16	27	15	58	2	11	2	15	10	19	17	46
March	14	36	23	73	1	4	4	9	12	40	14	66
Totals	201	477	224	902	15	106	55	176	142	357	147	646

Contracts (private paying) made during the fiscal year 1945–46:—

1945—	
April	20
May	24
June	27
July	32
August	38
September	26
October	21
November	45
December	25
1946—	
January	40
February	26
March	22
Total	346

ADMISSIONS, DEATHS, AND DISCHARGES BY MUNICIPALITIES.

Municipality.	Admissions.	Deaths.	Discharges.
City of Alberni	1	.....	2
City of Armstrong	1	.....	1
District of Burnaby	10	6	18
City of Chilliwack	1	.....	2
District of Chilliwhack	4	.....	1
District of Coquitlam	6	.....	3
City of Courtenay	1	.....	.....
Village of Creston	1	.....	2
City of Cumberland	2	.....	1
Village of Dawson Creek	2	1	1
District of Delta	2	1	.....
City of Duncan	.....	.....	.....
District of Esquimalt	.....	2	1
City of Kamloops	3	.....	3
City of Kelowna	2	.....	2
District of Kent	.....	.....	1
City of Kimberley	1	.....	.....
City of Ladysmith	1	.....	.....
District of Langley	5	1	1
District of Maple Ridge	3	.....	2
District of Matsqui	3	.....	5
Village of Mission	.....	.....	1
City of Nanaimo	8	1	1
City of Nelson	3	.....	2
City of New Westminster	14	2	7
District of North Cowichan	2	.....	1
City of North Vancouver	4	.....	8
District of North Vancouver	2	1	5
District of Oak Bay	3	2	1
District of Penticton	2	.....	2
District of Pitt Meadows	.....	1	.....
City of Port Alberni	8	.....	2
City of Port Coquitlam	.....	.....	1
City of Port Moody	.....	.....	2
City of Prince George	1	.....	.....
City of Prince Rupert	8	3	4
City of Revelstoke	.....	.....	1
District of Richmond	7	1	10
City of Rossland	4	1	2
District of Saanich	5	.....	6
District of Salmon Arm	.....	.....	.....
District of Summerland	1	.....	.....
District of Surrey	12	2	7
City of Trail	4	1	2
City of Vancouver	313	71	221
City of Vernon	3	.....	1
City of Victoria	20	8	17
District of West Vancouver	5	1	7
Village of Westview	.....	.....	.....
Totals	447	106	357

Number of Patients, Patient-days, and Total Municipal Collections.

Municipality.	No. of Patients in Hospital, April 1st, 1945, Municipal Charge.	No. of Patient-days charged Municipality, April 1st, 1945, to March 31st, 1946.	Total Municipal Collections, April, 1945, to March, 1946.
City of Alberni	1	191	$152.80
City of Armstrong	.....	79	63.20
District of Burnaby	20	3,863	3,090.40
City of Chilliwack	4	1,036	828.80
District of Chilliwhack	1	737	589.60
District of Coquitlam	.....	1,382	1,105.60
City of Courtenay	.....	291	232.80
Village of Creston	1	147	117.60
City of Cumberland	.....	387	309.60
Village of Dawson Creek	.....	287	229.60
District of Delta	.....	404	323.20
City of Duncan	1	365	292.00
District of Esquimalt	4	879	703.20
City of Kamloops	6	1,781	1,424.80
City of Kelowna	5	1,527	1,221.60
District of Kent	2	538	430.40
City of Kimberley	.....	59	47.20
City of Ladysmith	.....	4	3.20
District of Langley	3	1,730	1,384.00
District of Maple Ridge	6	2,228	1,782.40
District of Matsqui	2	308	246.40
Village of Mission	1	165	132.00
City of Nanaimo	1	944	755.20
City of Nelson	2	981	784.80
City of New Westminster	9	4,255	3,404.00
District of North Cowichan	.....	501	400.80
City of North Vancouver	9	2,544	2,035.20
District of North Vancouver	5	1,160	928.00
District of Oak Bay	1	626	500.80
District of Penticton	2	805	644.00
District of Pitt Meadows	1	35	28.00
City of Port Alberni	.....	1,283	1,026.40
City of Port Coquitlam	2	477	381.60
City of Port Moody	2	138	110.40
City of Prince George	.....	193	154.40
City of Prince Rupert	10	4,125	3,300.00
City of Revelstoke	1	115	92.00
District of Richmond	11	3,349	2,679.20
City of Rossland	3	1,288	1,030.40
District of Saanich	6	1,793	1,434.40
District of Salmon Arm	1	365	292.00
District of Summerland	.....	359	287.20
District of Surrey	2	1,428	1,142.40
City of Trail	8	3,721	2,976.80
City of Vancouver	192	75,761	60,608.80
City of Vernon	1	796	636.80
City of Victoria	22	8,697	6,957.60
District of West Vancouver	7	2,031	1,624.80
Village of Westview	1	365	292.00
Totals	356	136,523	$109,218.40

Municipal collections, fiscal year 1945–46 ..... $109,218.40
Municipal collections, fiscal year 1944–45 ..... 117,249.60

Decrease, 1945–46 ..... $8,031.20

Transportation arranged for sixty-two patients: $1,001.84 expended on transportation.

STATEMENT OF COLLECTIONS (OTHER THAN MUNICIPAL), FISCAL YEAR 1945–46.

Month.	Private Paying.	Department of Veterans' Affairs.	War Veterans' Allowances.	Old-age Pensions.	Dependents' Allowances.	Silicosis and Indian X-rays.	Total.
1945.							
April	$3,343.83	$6,353.90	$156.77	$100.00	$521.67	$505.54	$10,981.71
May	5,301.08	7,173.40	90.00	100.00	417.74	.....	13,082.22
June	3,276.19	7,542.00	60.00	100.00	434.00	558.00	11,970.19
July	2,807.24	6,934.70	45.00	75.00	414.02	206.30	10,482.26
August	4,168.57	6,185.70	92.00	75.00	592.00	64.00	11,177.27
September	4,577.90	6,948.40	72.58	86.00	567.48	.....	12,252.36
October	2,854.34	8,537.30	190.79	75.00	517.33	.....	12,174.76
November	4,194.25	8,638.90	131.36	75.00	417.08	.....	13,456.59
December	2,765.40	.....	189.00	75.00	215.16	174.59	3,419.15
1946.							
January	4,631.72	9,474.30	109.35	100.00	197.85	106.26	14,619.48
February	4,393.55	20,167.60	159.37	100.00	126.15	30.59	24,977.26
March	6,286.30	428.90	130.65	100.00	52.00	124.77	7,122.62
Totals	$48,600.37	$88,385.10	$1,426.87	$1,061.00	$4,472.48	$1,770.05	$145,715.87

Collections, fiscal year 1945–46	$145,715.87
Collections, fiscal year 1944–45	133,434.48
Increase, 1945–46	$12,281.39

PROVINCIAL MENTAL HOSPITAL, ESSONDALE, 1945–46.

Month.	Contracts.	Estates located.	Collections.		
			Private paying.	Estates.	Home for Aged.
1945.					
April	19	20	$2,157.25	$2,441.63	$19.00
May	28	21	2,199.41	772.04	19.00
June	34	27	3,222.27	2,851.73	19.00
July	18	20	8,090.24	2,721.71	19.00
August	22	18	2,301.51	373.53	19.00
September	28	19	1,957.45	2,770.95	19.00
October	22	14	1,861.65	1,071.28	19.00
November	25	14	3,910.75	679.40	19.00
December	18	10	2,122.93	541.08	.....
1946.					
January	24	18	3,539.97	1,115.03	.....
February	14	15	2,449.55	4,021.65	.....
March	20	30	6,129.49	1,061.03	.....
Totals	272	226	$39,942.47	$20,421.06	$152.00
Collections, fiscal year 1945–46			$39,942.47	$20,421.06	$152.00
Collections, fiscal year 1944–45			31,797.88	31,622.29	882.18
			$8,144.59*	$11,201.23†	$730.18†

* Increase. † Decrease.

Total Provincial Mental Hospital collections, $348,782.29, include the above amount of $39,942.47.

Total Provincial Home for the Aged collections, $39,529.94, include the above amount of $152.

(N.B.—All private paying contracts in connection with the Provincial Mental Hospital are made through this office, but it is optional whether maintenance accounts are paid to this office or direct to the hospital.)

(N.B.—All collections *re* estates of patients in the Provincial Mental Hospital are remitted by this office direct to the Inspector of Municipalities, Victoria.)

PROVINCIAL INFIRMARY, MARPOLE.

Estate Collections, Fiscal Year 1945–46.

1945.	
April	$222.65
May	503.65
June	92.44
July	1,121.36
August	129.86
September	44.82
October	164.39
November	892.96
December	320.88
1946.	
January	879.76
February	135.50
March	31.50
Total	$4,539.77
Provincial Infirmary collections, fiscal year 1945–46	$4,539.77
Provincial Infirmary collections, fiscal year 1944–45	4,353.61
Increase	$186.16

Number of estates of patients in the Provincial Infirmary administered by this office during 1945–46, 27.

J. G. McRAE,
Collector of Institutional Revenue.

FAMILY SERVICE.

Family Service is, as the term implies, a service to families. In this sense it covers all categories and is the type of service which the social worker takes to individuals and families in need.

For purposes of administration it is necessary to differentiate between the generalized service to families and that which is given under the supervision of the Child Welfare Division and other specialized agencies.

Family Service Division is responsible for the administration of general services, including Family Service where no financial aid is given, Mothers' Allowances, and Social Allowances, the latter two of which are dealt with under their respective headings.

The family is the basic unit of society. Social work has always concerned itself with the family as the primary social unit, and social case work has developed to assist the individual in his struggle to relate himself to his family, to his natural group, and to his community. The individual's manner of living is conditioned by his own and the community's concept of the family pattern. It is through his feelings and his experience that we work in our efforts to help him take responsibility for himself. When the family, either as a group or in its individual members, suffers disruption, the community suffers. The aim of Family Service, therefore, is to strengthen and maintain the family in the knowledge that "the things men live for and live by, the things that are most precious to them and that give life meaning, are to be found in the stuff of which the family is made."

Referrals for Family Service have come from the following sources:—

(1.) Direct request from the individual or family concerned.
(2.) Other Divisions of the Social Welfare Branch.
(3.) Juvenile Courts and industrial schools.
(4.) Public and private agencies, within the Province and without.
(5.) School for the Deaf and the Blind.
(6.) Junior Red Cross.
(7.) Federal Departments:—
  (*a.*) Department of National Defence (military services and overseas wives).
  (*b.*) Department of National Health and Welfare (Family Allowances).

The changing picture in the extension of services since the establishment of the Family Service Division in October, 1944, has not yet permitted the development of a statistical pattern. The following statistics will give some indication, however, of the scope of Family Service.

General Statistics.

Cases carried over from the year 1944–45	132
New cases opened in the year 1945–46	676
Cases closed in the year 1945–46	293

CLASSIFICATION OF NEW CASES ON BASIS OF REFERRAL.

		Total.
Families making direct request for service in connection with the following major problems		281
Potential neglect	7	
Marital problems	103	
Criminal offences	32	
Juvenile delinquency	28	
Ill-health	12	
Behaviour problems of children	33	
Counselling service on a variety of problems	66	
Cases referred for continuing and follow-up service from divisions giving specialized services		211
Child Welfare division	166	
Mental hospital	7	
Tuberculosis social service	14	
Inspector of Hospitals office	4	
Provincial Police	16	
Family Courts	4	
Cases referred from industrial schools		26
Cases referred from public and private agencies		80
Cases referred from the School for the Deaf and the Blind		2
Cases referred from Junior Red Cross		10
Cases referred from Federal Departments		66
(*a.*) Department of National Defence	21	
(*b.*) Department of Health and Welfare (Family Allowance, January to March, inclusive)	45	
Total new cases		676

Counselling service is a major function and in terms of results has been most effective. The following case is typical.

Mr. Blank was in the prime of his manhood and was proudly building towards a home for his wife and three children when he became afflicted with a paralysis which left him so badly crippled that after many months he could only get about with the aid of crutches. When Mr. Blank's savings were exhausted, it was necessary for him to accept financial assistance. This, while it provided food and shelter, was an irritation to the soul and an element in the factors making towards family breakdown. Over a period of months the social worker gave intensive service. She interpreted the financial assistance as temporary aid. She brought to the family resources from within and without, and through continued effort the family regained enthusiasm to carry on. Provision was made for Mr. Blank to learn a new trade. He will shortly be self-supporting.

It is our belief and experience that where the case-work point of view permeates the public welfare programme, both the taxpayer and the recipient of public assistance benefit thereby. In so far as is possible the client is served by a trained and experienced worker who has a real interest in his welfare, who individualizes his problem, who sees that assistance is given fairly and thoughtfully, and who brings to him the available resources of the community with a view to restoring him to the greatest possible measure of independence and self-support. Our concern is the prevention of human breakdown and the preservation and rehabilitation of self-sustaining families.

A. L. MESS,
Supervisor.

MEDICAL SERVICES DIVISION.

There has been very little change in the work done in the Provincial Medical Services Division since our report covering the previous fiscal year.

Our principal duties consist of carrying out a programme for the purpose of providing general and special medical, dental, and optical services to persons in receipt of Social Allowances, Mothers' Allowances, Old-age Pensions, and Blind Pensions. Consideration is also given to persons who are not in receipt of assistance, but whose income will not permit any additional expenses apart from the bare necessities of life. Medical services have also recently been extended to include the dependent of an old-age pensioner.

Insulin is supplied to diabetic War Veterans' Allowance cases through this office.

Arranging and providing transportation for Social Assistance cases, etc., to and from hospitals and doctors' offices for diagnosis and treatment comes within the scope of our work.

All accounts for the above-mentioned services are received in this office and are checked and passed for payment, together with all druggists' accounts.

The Provincial Government Dispensary is under the direct supervision of this office, and we are responsible for its staff and their salaries. Prescriptions are dispensed to the City of Vancouver at a very low price. The drug requirements of the Provincial Infirmaries at Marpole and Allco are also taken care of through the Dispensary. Insulin and drugs are sent from there to patients in outlying districts, and drugs and dressings to nurses in isolated areas.

Our pharmacist is responsible for checking prescription accounts received from druggists throughout the Province before payment is made through this office.

Following will be found the financial statement of the expenditure by this Division and set out in comparison with the previous fiscal year. This statement shows the expenditure of the Division in the five regions of the Province and under various headings. In the column headed "Sundry" are included the payments to municipalities under the general medical services plan and payments to doctors in certain areas who are on a *per capita* per month basis. There has been a substantial increase in the expenditure by this Division, which is doubtless due to more persons availing themselves of these services.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE, FISCAL YEARS 1944–45 AND 1945–46.

Regional District.	Fiscal Year.	Hospitals.	Doctors' Accounts.	Prescriptions.	Dental.	Optical.	Transportation.	Sundry.	Totals.
No. 1	1944–45	$35.00	$8,785.34	$10,064.89	$173.50	$162.50	$334.45	$6,828.15	$26,383.83
	1945–46	70.00	12,089.27	11,064.24	1,052.50	312.45	268.10	7,499.25	32,355.81
No. 2	1944–45	44.00	3,417.39	12,941.81	54.00	149.00	170.55	33,095.52	49,872.27
	1945–46	2,258.95	3,615.72	17,542.00	1,065.00	710.24	190.58	37,154.85	62,537.34
Dispensary	1944–45	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,340.83
	1945–46	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,180.36
No. 3	1944–45	.....	10,077.38	4,916.42	210.00	225.00	209.55	2,217.43	17,855.78
	1945–46	30.00	11,746.05	5,487.06	574.50	172.37	471.95	2,354.66	20,836.59
No. 4	1944–45	.....	5,694.93	2,445.08	78.00	240.00	229.66	2,207.47	10,895.14
	1945–46	12.50	8,642.50	3,446.09	208.00	28.50	456.40	2,435.80	15,229.79
No. 5	1944–45	218.15	6,234.40	2,585.09	191.50	50.00	2,153.65	.....	11,432.79
	1945–46	610.95	7,875.35	3,308.01	393.00	121.50	1,821.19	.....	14,130.00
Totals	1944–45	$297.15	$34,209.44	$32,953.29	$707.00	$826.50	$3,097.86	$44,348.57	$117,780.64
	1945–46	2,982.40	43,968.89	40,847.40	3,293.00	1,345.06	3,208.22	49,444.56	146,269.89

Regional Districts Nos. 1 to 5: Fiscal year 1944–45, $117,780.64; fiscal year 1945–46, $146,269.89.

A. S. SIMPSON, M.D.,
Acting Director, Medical Services Division.

MOTHERS' ALLOWANCES.

The graph on the following page presents the case-load and expenditure under this form of social assistance since its inception in 1920. In May, 1940, there were 1,778 mothers on allowance, an all-time high, but since that date there has been a steady decrease in both case-load and expenditure. The following table shows the expenditure and percentage change during the past six years:—

Fiscal Year.	Total Expenditure.	Change over Previous Year.	Percentage Change.
1940–41	$798,097.32	—$12,590.80	—1.55
1941–42	751,835.56	—46,261.76	—5.79
1942–43	667,213.02	—84,622.50	—11.26
1943–44	581,541.29	—85,671.73	—12.85
1944–45	528,442.87	—53,098.42	—9.13
1945–46	498,901.72	—29,541.15	—5.81

During this fiscal year 197 allowances were cancelled and for the following reasons:—

Analysis of Cancelled Cases.

Reason for Cancellation.	No. of Cases.
Earnings in excess	43
Mother remarried	38
Ineligible because of age of children	24
Children under 18 years ceased attending school	20
Husband ceased to be totally disabled	18
Children under 16 years ceased attending school	10
Unearned income in excess (War Veterans' Allowance, Dependents' Allowance, etc.)	10
Personal property in excess	9
Mother ceased to be fit and proper person	8
Children employed and able to support	5
Only child removed from home	4
Mother in hospital indefinitely	3
Husband released from penitentiary	3
Mother deceased	1
Removed from Province	1
Total	197

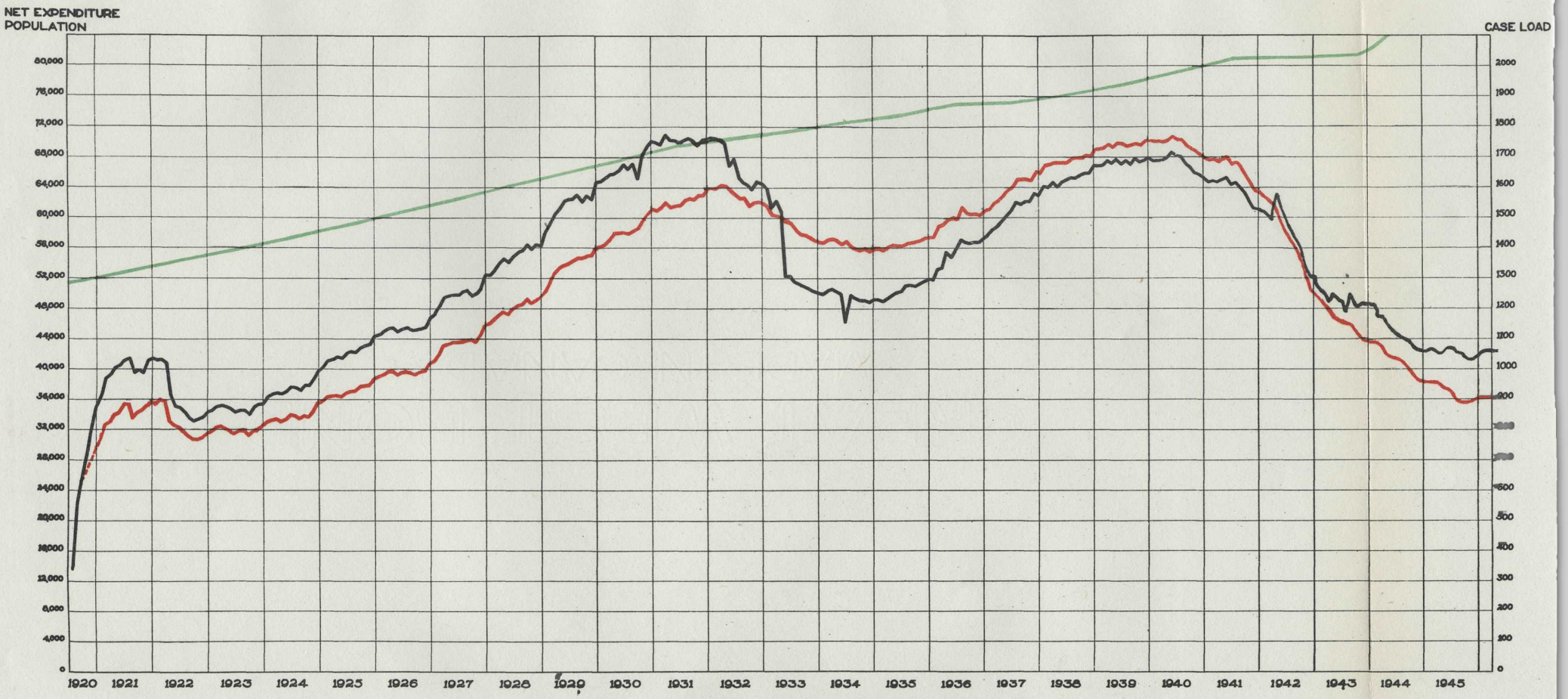
Of the 197 cases cancelled during the year, the following table shows the length of time they had been on allowance:—

Years	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Cases	23	23	16	25	17	10	18	22	11	6	4	4	7	2	5	2	2

Total, 197. Average length of time on allowance, 5.96 years.

As at April 1st, 1945, there were on hand fourteen applications received during the previous year but on which it had been impossible to make a decision. During the year 205 new and reapplications were received, making a total of 219 to deal with. Of this number, four applications were withdrawn and the others were disposed of as follows:—

Allowances granted	162
Allowances refused	43
Applications held over	10
Total	215



MOTHERS' ALLOWANCES

BRITISH COLUMBIA

LEGEND: — NET EXPENDITURE
— CASE LOAD
— POPULATION (Scale = ½ Net Expenditure)

A breakdown of reasons for refusal discloses the following:—

Reasons for Refusal.	Cases.
Personal property in excess	11
Mother's earnings in excess	7
Husband not totally disabled	7
Unable to fulfil residence requirements	4
Social Allowance considered preferable form of assistance	4
Older children supporting	3
Not legally married	2
Income	2
Not deserted by husband	1
No dependent children in age-group	1
Section 6 of Act	1
Total	43

During the year there were no amendments to the Act, but by Order in Council No. 1171, dated July 10th, 1945, section 10 (*b*) of the regulations was amended to read as follows: "A woman who pays rent or who is making payments on her home or who has an encumbrance against her home may be granted $5 more per month than a woman who owns her home free of encumbrance." This amendment permitted increasing the allowance to a few mothers.

The personnel of the Mothers' Allowances Advisory Board remained unchanged and under the chairmanship of Mrs. I. E. Smelts, Vancouver. There were three meetings held during the year and among the subjects discussed were:—

(1.) Vocational training for boys who have left school.
(2.) Rehabilitation of disabled husbands.
(3.) Policy in respect to Family Allowances.
(4.) Amendment to section 10 of the regulations.

The members of the Advisory Board take a very keen interest in the various matters under discussion, and their recommendations are of value in the administration of this Act.

A review of the case-load for the month of March, 1946, discloses that of the total 905 cases, 350 or 38.67 per cent. were one-child cases and 294 or 32.48 per cent. were families of only two children. Allowances were granted to 225 mothers because of incapacitated husbands. Tuberculosis again was the main cause of disability, being responsible for 70 cases, or 31.11 per cent of the whole. This is an increase over the previous year and would appear to warrant the continuation of "T.B. Benefits," which are, of course, available to recipients of Mothers' Allowances.

In administering this form of social assistance, it is essential that our social workers maintain a satisfactory relationship with the mothers on allowance. Case-loads remain extremely heavy throughout the Province, but I am satisfied that our field staff has done all that was possible under the circumstances in ensuring that the funds disbursed under the "Mothers' Allowances Act" achieve the maximum benefit to all concerned.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Fiscal Year April 1st, 1945, to March 31st, 1946.

Advance received from Minister of Finance	$499,500.00
Bank interest	6.79

Month.	Amount of Advance.	Amount of Interest.	
March		$0.44	
April	$42,150.00	.48	
May	41,750.00	.76	
June	42,300.00	.23	
July	41,500.00	.50	
August	41,300.00	.28	
September	41,250.00	.56	
October	41,000.00	.68	
November	40,750.00	.70	
December	41,250.00	1.43	
January	42,000.00	.28	
February	42,250.00	.45	
March	42,000.00		
	$499,500.00	$6.79	$499,506.79

Allowances paid as follows:—

Month.	Amount of Allowances.	
April	$41,755.43	
May	42,165.81	
June	42,236.27	
July	41,400.92	
August	41,279.94	
September	40,931.44	
October	40,945.74	
November	41,142.91	
December	41,665.36	
January	41,825.34	
February	41,839.08	
March	41,713.48	
		498,901.72
Balance to be accounted for		$605.07

The books and records of the Mothers' Allowances Fund have been examined under my direction. I hereby certify that the above statement is a true account of the Receipts and Disbursements of the Director of Welfare under authority of the "Mothers' Allowances Act" for twelve months ended March 31st, 1946, according to the information furnished me, and as disclosed by the books and records submitted for my inspection.

J. A. Craig,
Comptroller-General.

STATEMENT OF CREDITS AND REFUNDS DEDUCTED FROM TOTAL AMOUNT OF ALLOWANCES PAID OUT.

Total amount paid out from April 1st, 1945, to March 31st, 1946, inclusive		$499,101.72
Less refunds paid by—		
MA-8827 in April, cheque No. 369829	$42.50	
MA-9354 in April, cheque No. 369930	55.00	
MA-9868 in May, cheque No. 370971	42.50	
MA-10266 in November, cheque No. 376600	60.00	
		200.00
		$498,901.72

The following summary gives the cause of death of the husbands in cases of widows in receipt of assistance at March 31st, 1946:—

Cause of Death.		
Infectious and parasitic diseases—		
Diphtheria	0	
Influenza	2	
Septicæmia	3	
Spinal meningitis	9	
Tuberculosis	44	
Typhoid	3	
		— 61
Cancer and other tumours—		
Cancer	65	
Other tumours	1	
		— 66
Rheumatic and other general diseases—		
Arthritis	1	
Diabetes	8	
Muscular atrophy	1	
Rheumatism	0	
		— 10
Diseases of the blood, etc.—		
Anæmia	2	
Hodgkin's disease	3	
Leukæmia	2	
Purpura	0	
		— 7
Chronic poisons and intoxicants—		
Toxemia	2	
		— 2
Diseases of nervous system and organs of special senses—		
Abscess of brain	3	
Brain tumour	7	
Cerebral hæmorrhage	36	
Cerebral thrombosis	3	
Encephalitis	1	
Epileptic seizure	1	
General paresis	2	
Insanity	15	
Neurasthenia	1	
Neuritis	1	
Paralysis agitans	1	
Paralysis	8	
Parkinson's disease	1	
Thrombosis undefined	3	
		— 83
Diseases of circulatory system—		
Angina pectoris	3	
Aortic aneurism	1	
Arteriosclerosis	2	
Coronary thrombosis and sclerosis	19	
Coronary occlusion	10	
Embolism	5	
Endocarditis	8	
Heart (ill-defined)	81	
Hypertension	5	
Pericarditis	0	
		— 134

Cause of Death.		
Diseases of respiratory system—		
Asthma	2	
Bronchiectasis	3	
Bronchitis	1	
Oedema glottis	1	
Oedema lungs	3	
Pleurisy	2	
Pneumonia	40	
Silicosis	1	
		— 53
Diseases of digestive system—		
Appendicitis	7	
Colitis	1	
Gastroduodenal ulcer	10	
Intestinal obstruction	3	
Intestinal intoxication	1	
Gall bladder	1	
Liver disease	4	
Pancreatitis	1	
Peritonitis	8	
		— 36
Diseases of genito-urinary system—		
Bright's disease	1	
Chronic nephritis	13	
Kidney trouble	3	
Uræmia	7	
		— 24
Violent or accidental deaths—		
Accidents	44	
Burns	2	
Drowning	13	
Fractured skull	1	
Murdered	0	
Post-operative shock	1	
Suicide	9	
		— 70
Ill-defined causes—		
Asphyxia	1	
Blindness	0	
General debility	2	
Hæmorrhage	5	
Osteomyelitis	2	
Others	0	
Poison	2	
Rupture	2	
Sclerosis	3	
Ulcers	0	
Unknown	2	
Suffocation	1	
		— 20
Total		566

The causes of total disability of husbands in cases coming under the classification of "husbands totally disabled" at March 31st, 1946:—

Cause of Disability.		
Infectious and parasitic diseases—		
Poliomyelitis	3	
Tuberculosis	70	
	—	73
Cancer and other tumours—		
Cancer	4	
Other tumours	1	
	—	5
Rheumatic and other general diseases—		
Arthritis	18	
Diabetes	1	
Rheumatism	4	
Spondylitis	0	
	—	23
Diseases of the blood, etc.—		
Anæmia	1	
Polycythemia	0	
	—	1
Diseases of nervous system and organs of special senses—		
Brain tumour	0	
Cerebral hæmorrhage	1	
Cerebral thrombosis	2	
Chorea	1	
Disseminated sclerosis	3	
Eczema	1	
Encephalitis	1	
Epilepsy	1	
Claucoma	1	
Insane	5	
Kyphosis of spine	1	
Mastoid	0	
Muscular atrophy	1	
Muscular degeneration	1	
Neurasthenia	2	
Neuritis	1	
Paralysis	2	
Paralysis agitans	1	
Parkinson's disease	4	
Psychosis	1	
Psychoneurosis	2	
Spinal urebellar	1	
Others	0	
	—	33

Cause of Disability.		
Diseases of circulatory system—		
Angina pectoris	1	
Arteriosclerosis	2	
Coronary sclerosis and thrombosis	6	
Heart (ill-defined)	22	
Hypertension	4	
Tachycardiac	1	
	—	36
Diseases of respiratory system—		
Asthma	5	
Pneumonia	0	
Silicosis	1	
	—	6
Diseases of digestive system—		
Colitis	2	
Gastroduodenal ulcer	8	
	—	10
Diseases of genito-urinary system—		
Bright's disease	1	
Epididymitis	1	
Nephritis	3	
Prostatitis	1	
	—	6
Injuries or accidents—		
Accidents	3	
Dislocated hip	1	
	—	4
Ill-defined causes—		
Blindness	10	
General debility	6	
Osteomyelitis	0	
Others	1	
Pseudo-angina	1	
Rupture	3	
Sclerosis	5	
Senility	2	
	—	28
Total		225

The status and number of children of families in receipt of assistance in March, 1946, was as follows:—

	Number of Children.										
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	Total.
Widows	234	176	98	37	9	9	3	0	0	0	566
Incapacitated husbands	82	72	35	15	13	4	2	1	0	1	225
Deserted	8	23	4	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	41
Divorced	7	8	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	22
Unmarried	3	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Insane	4	6	5	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	20
Penitentiary	2	5	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
Foster-mothers	9	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
Judicial separation	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Totals	350	294	152	58	29	14	5	1	1	1	905

Number of individuals benefited—

Mothers	905
Husbands	225
Children	1,917
	3,047

C. W. Lundy,
Director of Welfare.

OLD-AGE PENSION BOARD.

GENERAL.

In the year covered by this report, an all-time high was reached, both in volume of cases handled and in amount of expenditure. There were 2,770 new applications received, including both old-age and blind, as compared with 2,011 the year before, and 2,519 pensions were granted as compared with 2,085 the year before. At the end of the fiscal year there were in all 16,977 pensioners on the pay-roll, compared with 15,684 at the end of the previous fiscal year. This represents an increase of 8.24 per cent. Total expenditures, including pensions proper and cost-of-living bonus for both blind and old-age pensioners, amounted to $5,738,805.34, compared with $5,361,102.41 in 1944–45. This shows an increase of $377,702.93 or 7.04 per cent.

These increases would appear to be due largely to the natural increase in the number of persons in the Province of pensionable age. In addition, however, it is noted that the percentage of old-age pensioners to the total number of people in the Province over 70 years of age increased in 1945–46. The percentage last year was 33.36, whereas it was 35.40 at the end of this fiscal year.

Due to the change in policy outlined in last year's report respecting the making of claims against estates, fewer claims were made and a smaller amount of money was collected. Although there were 1,299 deaths this year as compared with 1,214 last year, only 111 claims were made as compared with 135 last year, and the amount collected dropped from $84,918.36 last year to $54,948.34 this year.

There were no changes in the Act or regulations during the year.

Although the volume of work done was considerably greater than last year, it was accomplished with a slightly reduced staff and a small reduction in salary costs. This was made possible by reason of the fact that the relatively large number of new persons whom it had been necessary to employ during the previous year had become more experienced and consequently more efficient and, in addition, there were no major changes.

CHANGES IN POLICY.

Certain changes in policy were made during the year, but none of major importance. Chief among them were the following:—

Contributions from Children.

In the 1943–44 report an outline was given of a scale of exemptions allowed children before expecting them to contribute towards the support of their parents. In 1945–46 these exemptions were raised. A single son or daughter is now allowed $1,200 a year plus the amount of income tax paid before assistance is expected as compared with $1,100 plus income tax as formerly, while a married son is now allowed $2,100 plus $300 for each dependent child plus the amount of income tax paid as compared with $1,800 plus $300 for each dependent child plus income tax as formerly.

Life Interest in Property.

Heretofore it had been the Board's policy to consider property in which the pensioner had a life interest on the basis of free rent if the pensioner was living on it, but on the basis of 5 per cent. of its value if it was property other than that used as a home. After careful consideration, however, it was decided to continue considering on the basis of free rent the property used as a home, but hereafter to take into account only the income actually received from property other than that used as a home.

RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS.

In April, 1942, the Government of British Columbia commenced paying a supplementary allowance or cost-of-living bonus of $5 a month to all pensioners whose pen-

sions were granted in this Province. As the Province of Alberta adopted the same plan, the two Provinces entered into a reciprocal agreement whereby each Province would pay this bonus to pensioners coming from the other Province and charge the cost back to that Province. Thus British Columbia and Alberta pensioners were able to move freely from the one Province to the other without suffering any financial loss.

In the year 1945–46 a similar agreement was entered into with the Province of Saskatchewan. As Saskatchewan pays a bonus of only $3 a month, however, pensioners moving from that Province to British Columbia receive only that amount, whereas British Columbia pensioners moving to Saskatchewan are paid a $5 bonus there, which, of course, is charged back to British Columbia.

No such reciprocal agreement has yet been reached with any of the six other Provinces.

SOCIAL SERVICE DIVISION.

Social services to the aged group during the year 1945–46 have been for the most part an extension of those fully outlined in previous reports. An understanding and individual approach to every pensioner is the key-note of the service being rendered by the workers in the generalized programme of the Provincial department.

One yearly visit is required in accordance with the "Old Age Pensions Act" in order to obtain necessary factual information. In some instances this suffices, otherwise the number of contacts, direct and indirect, made by the social worker is determined only by the situation and needs of the pensioner. The results of such efforts are difficult to tabulate but are evident in the improved attitude of the pensioners and their friends in their relations with the Board.

During the past twelve months communications were sent out by the Supervisor of Social Service on 1,075 cases referred by the district workers and the clerical staff in head office. In addition, 185 of our pensioners from outside the City of Vancouver called in person at the Old-age Pension Board office, having come to the city for medical attention or to visit relatives. Meeting with these old folk gives us an opportunity for first-hand knowledge of, and interpretation to, the group with which we are working. (It must be remembered that many of our hardy pioneers choose to live in places so isolated that it is an achievement for a worker to make even the one required yearly visit!)

In the course of the past year the intake social worker at head office interviewed an average of 266 persons a month in relation to problems on pensions already in effect or more general inquiries. This group included a wide range of pensioners, interested friends, and professional persons. A continuous flow of telephone calls asking for explanations of the available services takes up a large share of the time of both of the social workers.

The Social Service Supervisor, with the assistance of other executives, has accepted responsibility for seeing that our workers are provided with material which will facilitate the carrying-on of the work. At our present stage of development this has had to be largely in the form of carefully prepared instructions. A regional conference on Family Services in the Provincial department was held in Kamloops early in the year, at which one session was devoted to a full discussion of old-age pension work. The Supervisor also acted as chairman of a sub-committee which made a study and report on the situation of the aged in Vancouver, at the request of the Welfare Council of Greater Vancouver. During the year, under the direction of the Social Service Division, twelve new workers on their way to district offices spent a short time at the Old-age Pension Board office in order to gain some familiarity with the set-up and workings of head office. Clerical staff in the Old-age Pension Board office are also interviewed by the Supervisor of Social Service at the commencement of employment in

order that they may understand the function of this Division and the necessity of integration of services with the field staff and other Provincial branches.

Medical services must occupy a fair share of the time of any social worker associated with the aged. It would scarcely be possible to overestimate the value of the health service now available in this Province, in spite of obvious gaps. In this connection, we at head office are receiving the fullest co-operation from the Vancouver General Hospital, the cancer clinic, and the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. Workers speak highly of the services of general practitioners and hospitals throughout the Province. Service in two important areas, however, is limited and on an individual basis—that of reading-glasses and dentures. There is also an increasing demand for hearing aids. Such appliances, since they ease the strain of disabilities and make for normal living, are perhaps more important to older folk than many of the more generally accepted services. It is hoped that means may be found to meet these needs.

To consider further the medical aspect brings us to the question of the consideration of the chronic group. The need for making provision for the care of semi-invalids, invalids, and cases of advanced senility is probably the most baffling problem which the social worker, fairly or unfairly, is expected to meet. With such facilities as we have (the Provincial Infirmary, Essondale, and the Home for the Aged) crowded to the doors, our workers are, in far too many cases, subjected to almost intolerable pressure from relatives and interested persons in the community who feel that the burden of caring for an invalid, which has become too heavy, should be immediately lifted. The pressure, time, and effort required to make any sort of arrangements under these circumstances tend to becloud the case-work problem of really suitable placement.

Of the applicants for pension in British Columbia during the past year, only a small percentage had assets of any considerable value, 72 per cent. were living apart from their children and 50 per cent. were without marital partners. Such figures only serve to confirm the fact that the care of aged relatives is no longer a generally accepted responsibility on the part of the younger members of a family. A serious outcome of this development is the housing situation for the aged, who are in no position to compete in the housing market of to-day, and workers' reports indicate a forced acceptance by the old people of living standards far below health and comfort requirements.

Workers have noted with feelings of encouragement the interest (in some cases resulting in action) of various municipalities in the question of homes for ageing people in their areas. The establishment by the Salvation Army of a well-planned home for women is a significant step.

When more of these seemingly insurmountable obstacles have been cleared from their path, our social workers will be ready and able to work more constructively in the service of the aged. Meantime, efforts from the head office are constantly directed towards building up an understanding relationship between the pensioners throughout the Province and the district offices. From the workers in the districts must come the interpretation which will make them truly the representatives of the Old-age Pension Board.

GRAPHIC PRESENTATION.

On the following page will be found a graphic presentation of the trends in old-age and blind pensions in British Columbia from the coming into force of the "Old Age Pensions Act" in 1927 to the end of the fiscal year 1945–46.

The red line graph shows the trend in cost of pensions; the unbroken black line shows the trend in numbers of persons in receipt of pension; and the broken line shows the trend in total population. These graphs may only be compared one with another in general, as they are not based on any common unit of amount. The trend of costs graph is based on 72,000 units to the square. The trend of number of pensioners graph is based on 2,400 units to the square, and the trend of population graph is based on

240,000 units to the square. The graphs are made up from statistical records of the Old-age Pension Board and population figures from Dominion census records.

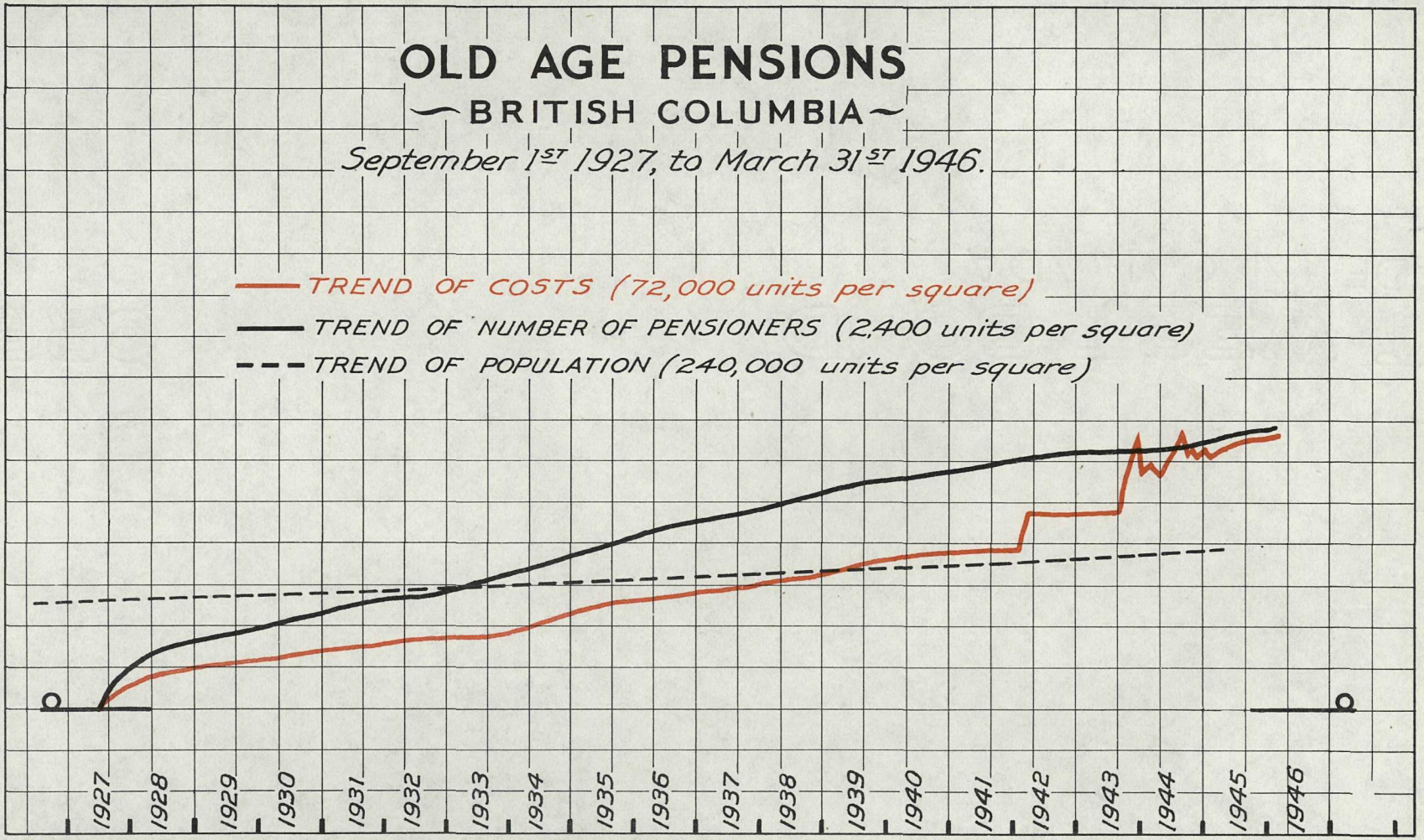
It will be seen from the graphs that during the first two years' operation of the Act there was a sharp rise in both the number of pensioners and the cost of pensions. This, of course, was due to the large initial number of applicants who were granted pensions in this period.

After this early period there was a lessening in rate of increase of the number of pensioners added to the pay-roll until the middle of 1930, when, it will be noted, a further increase in the rate of pensions granted began and continued fairly steadily until about the middle of 1939.

From the middle of 1939 until the end of 1940 the rate of increase in number of pensioners is seen to continue evenly. This represented the early period of the war. The later period of the war, beginning with the year 1941 and continuing to the latter part of 1943, shows a rate of increase in the number of pensioners less than in any former period. However, late in 1943 it is noticed that a rise began in this rate of increase, became steeper towards the end of 1944, and continued through 1945 and into 1946.

When the graph representing the number of old-age pensioners is compared in a general way with the graph representing the total population of the Province, it is evident that at first the number of old-age pensioners increased much more quickly than population, which, of course, was to be expected. This difference in percentage increase, although becoming less for some time, has again shown a marked upward trend during the past three years.

When the graph representing the cost of pensions is compared with the graph representing the number of pensioners, it is seen that, after the initial sharp rise, the graph of cost maintained a general, regular, upward trend until the period between March and April of 1942, when there was a sharp rise, and another of about similar amount between September and October, 1943. The first of these rises was due to the granting of the cost-of-living bonus of $5 a month to pensioners in this Province by the Provincial Government, which bears the full cost of this additional expenditure itself. The second resulted from an increase of $5 a month in the rate of pension payments authorized by the Dominion Government under the "War Measures Act" on August 10th, 1943, by Order in Council P.C. 6367. It will be seen that although the cost occasioned by the extra $5 a month under the "War Measures Act" resulted in high points in the graph for October and November, this fell off sharply during the next two months. The explanation is that the $5 a month payment was made retroactive, so that there resulted an accumulation of more than one month's payment to be made. A somewhat similar sharp rise followed by a decline is noticed for the middle period of 1944. This rise is explained by the amendment to the Act which provided for an allowable income of $425 instead of the former $365, and the computations following this, too, were made retroactive. For this reason the highest point on the graph was above that which otherwise would have resulted, and the following months therefore showed a recession. The trend for the past year is normal, considering the increase in the number of pensioners.


OLD AGE PENSIONS
BRITISH COLUMBIA
September 1ST 1927, to March 31ST 1946.
TREND OF COSTS (72,000 units per square)
TREND OF NUMBER OF PENSIONERS (2,400 units per square)
TREND OF POPULATION (240,000 units per square)
0
0
1927
1928
1929
1930
1931
1932
1933
1934
1935
1936
1937
1938
1939
1940
1941
1942
1943
1944
1945
1946

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31ST, 1946.
OLD-AGE PENSIONS.

TABLE 1.—DISPOSITION OF APPLICATIONS.

	Current Year.	Total to March 31st, 1946.
Number of new applications received	2,726	36,258
Number of new applications granted	2,494*	32,621
Number of new applicants ineligible	276*	2,366

* Includes some held over from previous year.

TABLE 2.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Number of B.C. pensioners returned to B.C.	73
Number of new "other Province" pensioners transferred to B.C.	492
Number of B.C. pensioners transferred to other Provinces	120
Number of pensioners from other Provinces transferred out of B.C. or suspended	287
Number of B.C. reinstatements granted	197
Number of B.C. pensions suspended	245
Number of deaths of B.C. pensioners	1,280
Number of deaths of "other Province" pensioners in B.C.	149
Total number of pensioners on pay-roll at end of fiscal year	16,637

TABLE 3.—CAUSES OF INELIGIBILITY OF APPLICANTS.

Ineligible on account of age	60
Ineligible on account of residence	19
Ineligible on account of citizenship	10
Ineligible on account of income	85
Ineligible on account of assistance from children	28
Ineligible for other miscellaneous reasons	74
Total number ineligible	276

TABLE 4.—SEX OF NEW PENSIONERS.

Males	1,250
Females	1,244
Total	2,494

TABLE 5.—MARITAL STATUS OF NEW PENSIONERS.

Married	1,048
Single	348
Widows	641
Widowers	283
Separated	157
Divorced	17
Total	2,494

TABLE 6.—BIRTHPLACE OF APPLICANTS.

	Per Cent.
British Columbia	2.41
Other parts of Canada	27.06
The British Isles	50.12
Other parts of the British Empire	1.32
The United States	6.06
Other foreign countries	13.03

TABLE 7.—AGES OF APPLICANTS.

	Per Cent.
Age 70	41.86
Age 71	14.40
Age 72	9.98
Age 73	6.54
Age 74	4.73
Age 75	4.25
Age 76 to 80	12.31
Age 81 to 90	5.37
Age 90 and up	0.56

TABLE 8.—AGES OF PENSIONERS AT DEATH.

	Per Cent.
Age 70	2.83
Age 71	4.43
Age 72	4.43
Age 73	4.50
Age 74	5.10
Age 75	5.64
Age 76 to 80	31.36
Age 81 to 85	24.98
Age 86 to 90	12.16
Age 90 and up	4.57

TABLE 9.—LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF APPLICANTS.

	Per Cent.
Living alone	27.91
Living with spouse	32.84
Living with spouse and children	7.94
Living with children	19.69
Living with others	10.14
Living in public institutions	0.84
Living in private institutions	0.64

TABLE 10.—ECONOMIC STATUS OF APPLICANTS.

	Per Cent.
(*a.*) Holding real property of value—	
Under $251	67.68
$251 to $500	7.14
$501 to $1,000	10.02
$1,001 to $2,000	11.15
$2,001 to $5,000	3.85
$5,001 and up	0.16
(*b.*) Holding personal property of value—	
Under $251	74.10
$251 to $500	13.23
$501 to $1,000	7.98
$1,001 to $3,000	4.57
$3,001 and up	0.12

TABLE 11.—CLAIMS AGAINST ESTATES, OLD-AGE AND BLIND.

Number of cases of deaths	1,299
Number of cases where claims made	111
Number of cases where claims were waived or withdrawn in favour of beneficiaries	30
Number of claims on which collections were made (including cases from former years)	174
Total amount collected	$54,948.34

TABLE 12.—PERCENTAGE OF PENSIONERS TO POPULATION.*

Percentage of pensioners to the total population of the Province	1.75
Percentage of all persons over 70 years of age to the total population of the Province	4.95
Percentage of pensioners to the population over 70 years of age	35.40

* Percentages based on population estimated as at March 31st, 1946.

BLIND PENSIONS.

TABLE 1.—DISPOSITION OF APPLICATIONS.

	Current Year.	Total to March 31st, 1946.
Number of new applications received	44	618
Number of new applications granted	25*	479
Number of new applicants ineligible	5*	105
Number of new applications withdrawn	4	-----

* Includes some held over from previous year.

TABLE 2.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Number of new "other Province" pensioners transferred to B.C.	11
Number of B.C. pensioners transferred to other Provinces	3
Number of pensioners from other Provinces transferred out of B.C. or suspended	7
Number of reinstatements granted	3
Number of B.C. pensions suspended	6
Number of deaths of pensioners	19
Number of deaths of "other Province" pensioners in B.C.	3
Total number of pensioners on pay-roll at end of fiscal year	340

TABLE 3.—CAUSES OF INELIGIBILITY OF APPLICANTS.

Ineligible on basis of income	1
Ineligible on basis of sight	4
Total number ineligible	5

TABLE 4.—SEX OF NEW PENSIONERS.

Males	13
Females	12
Total	25

TABLE 5.—MARITAL STATUS OF NEW PENSIONERS.

Married	9
Single	7
Widows	4
Widowers	2
Separated	3
Divorced	0
Total	25

TABLE 6.—BIRTHPLACE OF APPLICANTS.

	Per Cent.
British Columbia	4.00
Other parts of Canada	12.00
The British Isles	64.00
Other parts of the British Empire	00.00
The United States	00.00
Other foreign countries	20.00

TABLE 7.—AGES OF APPLICANTS.

	Per Cent.
Age 40 to 44	4.00
Age 45 to 49	4.00
Age 50 to 54	4.00
Age 55 to 59	20.00
Age 60 to 64	28.00
Age 65 to 69	24.00
Age 70 and up	16.00

TABLE 8.—LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF APPLICANTS.

	Per Cent.
Living alone	12.00
Living with spouse	32.00
Living with spouse and children	8.00
Living with children	12.00
Living with others	32.00
Living in public institutions	4.00
Living in private institutions	00.00

TABLE 9.—ECONOMIC STATUS OF APPLICANTS.

	Per Cent.
(*a.*) Holding real property of value—	
Under $251	68.00
$251 to $500	12.00
$501 to $1,000	12.00
$1,001 and up	8.00
(*b.*) Holding personal property of value—	
Under $251	72.00
$251 to $500	12.00
$501 to $1,000	12.00
$1,000 and up	4.00

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31ST, 1946.

TABLE 1.—PENSIONS.

	Pensions.	Supplementary Allowances.	Total.
Total amount paid pensioners in British Columbia—			
Old-age	$4,708,531.71	$909,633.48	$5,618,165.19
Blind	100,979.19	19,660.96	120,640.15
Totals	$4,809,510.90	$929,294.44	$5,738,805.34
Less—			
Amount of refunds from pensioners and estates—			
From estates of old-age pensioners	$54,923.34		$54,923.34
From estates of blind pensioners	25.00		25.00
Overpayments refunded by old-age pensioners	2,782.72	$188.06	2,970.78
Overpayments refunded by blind pensioners	285.00		285.00
Miscellaneous refunds from old-age pensioners	3,545.92	41.90	3,587.82
Miscellaneous refunds from blind pensioners	75.00	13.00	88.00
Totals	$61,636.98	$242.96	$61,879.94
Net amount paid pensioners in British Columbia—			
Old-age	$4,647,279.73	$909,403.52	$5,556,683.25
Blind	100,594.19	19,647.96	120,242.15
Totals	$4,747,873.92	$929,051.48	$5,676,925.40
Add—			
Amount paid other Provinces on account of pensioners for whom British Columbia is partly responsible—			
Old-age	$24,424.66	$6,988.93	$31,413.59
Blind	487.05	135.00	622.05
Totals	$24,911.71	$7,123.93	$32,035.64
Less—			
Amount received by British Columbia on account of pensioners for whom other Provinces are partly responsible—			
Old-age	$244,683.74	$62,822.99	$307,506.73
Blind	4,679.70	738.00	5,417.70
Totals	$249,363.44	$63,560.99	$312,924.43

	Pensions.	Supplementary Allowances.	Total.
Less—			
Amount refunded by the Dominion Government—			
Old-age	$3,485,885.07		$3,485,885.07
Blind	75,441.39		75,441.39
Totals	$3,561,326.46		$3,561,326.46
Total amount paid by British Columbia—			
Old-age	$941,135.58	$853,569.46	$1,794,705.04
Blind	20,960.15	19,044.96	40,005.11
Totals	$962,095.73	$872,614.42	$1,834,710.15

TABLE 2.—ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES.

Salaries and special services	$57,106.41
Printing and stationery	5,591.31
Permanent equipment	3,693.86
Postage	9,036.21
Telegraph and telephone	1,015.32
Bank exchange	1,596.45
Travelling expenses	181.85
Miscellaneous	1,146.36
Total	$79,367.77

TABLE 3.—SUPPLEMENTARY ALLOWANCES.

Gross amount of Supplementary Allowances paid in British Columbia	$936,175.41
Supplementary Allowances refunded by other Provinces	63,560.99
Net Supplementary Allowances paid by British Columbia	$872,614.42

TABLE 4.—ESTIMATED TRAVELLING AND MEDICAL SERVICES EXPENSES.

Approximate travelling expenses for field service in unorganized territory and municipalities	$34,204.00
Approximate cost of medical services in unorganized territory and municipalities	82,875.00

(The above figures do not include expenditures by municipalities for travelling expenses and medical services.)

In concluding this report the Board welcomes the opportunity of expressing its sincere appreciation for the assistance received from many sources in administering the Act during the year. It would not be possible to record adequately the help received from the various social agencies, both public and private, but to all of them we wish to extend our thanks. The guidance given to pensioners and applicants and the friendly co-operation extended to the administration by the officials of the various branches of the Old-age Pensioners' Association have been most helpful and encouraging.

We wish also to commend the work of the departmental field staff, who are on the "front line" of duty. Though labouring with case-loads that must at times be discouraging, they have improved the quality of their work and have shown a splendid spirit.

To the members of the administration staff we wish to express our special appreciation. Their fine attitude and sustained effort made it possible to accomplish a heavy year's work successfully.

J. H. CREIGHTON,
Chairman.

RESEARCH CONSULTANT.

There were four meetings of the Advisory Committee to the Research Consultant during the year, at which present and future work of the Consultant were discussed.

At the close of the previous fiscal year, a survey of the Boys' Industrial School was partly done. This project was completed first. It was a study of the Boys' Industrial School itself, as well as a study of the group of boys who had been committed there during the five-year period previous to March 31st, 1940. Special attention was paid to boys committed through the Vancouver Juvenile Court, although records of all 350 boys from everywhere in the Province were read and analysed. An intensive study of recidivists from the Vancouver Juvenile Court was also made.

Following this, a short study was made of the comparative costs of protection and delinquency based on figures supplied by the Industrial Schools, the Children's Aid Societies, and the Child Welfare Division. A five-year period, 1935–40, was covered, as well as the year 1944.

The main research project of the year was a survey of the Provincial Infirmary, undertaken at the suggestion of the Superintendent of the Provincial Infirmary. This started out to be only a study of the institution but developed into a study of chronic diseases, with special reference to facilities for treatment and care in British Columbia. All records of patients in the three units of the Infirmary were studied, and the units visited. The Provincial Home in Kamloops was included in the survey as many of its inmates suffer from chronic diseases. Superintendents of some general hospitals in the Province were interviewed in order to ascertain how many active beds in their institutions were occupied by chronic patients. An effort was also made to get factual information about developments for the treatment and care of chronic patients in other areas.

The next survey is still in process of being completed. This deals with the problem of housing for the aged in British Columbia. This problem of housing for the older people is one which is being studied both in England and the United States, and there is therefore much literature available for study which will be helpful for planning in British Columbia.

ISOBEL HARVEY,
Research Consultant.

SOCIAL ALLOWANCES.

This form of assistance is available to unemployable persons and continues to meet many situations. The report for this year shows an increase both in the numbers of persons receiving aid and expenditure. While the increase at present is not alarming, it does require examination to determine the cause. From reports we have received, I am of the opinion that the greater numbers seeking aid are accounted for to a considerable extent by decreasing employment opportunities. During the war years men and women formerly considered incapable of supporting themselves obtained employment such as they were capable of performing, and thus removed the necessity of financial assistance from private or public agencies. With the cessation of hostilities many of these employment opportunities have disappeared and with a consequently greater number of persons unable to provide for themselves through their own resources. Compared to the number receiving this form of aid in March, 1942 (14,617 persons), the increase to date should not, I believe, create undue concern, but does point up the necessity of examining and utilizing the resources at our disposal to the end that we fully acquaint ourselves with and utilize all possible rehabilitation measures.

Below is given the case-loads, municipal and Provincial, for the month of March in the years 1945 and 1946.

TOTAL CASE-LOAD.

March, 1945.		*March, 1946.*	
Municipal—		Municipal—	
Heads of families	843	Heads of families	983
Dependents	1,491	Dependents	1,879
Single	2,894	Single	3,266
Total	5,228	Total	6,128
Provincial—		Provincial—	
Heads of families	433	Heads of families	534
Dependents	951	Dependents	1,208
Single	999	Single	1,172
Total	2,383	Total	2,914
Grand total	7,611	Grand total	9,042

EXPENDITURE BY THE PROVINCE FOR SOCIAL ALLOWANCES, MEDICAL SERVICES, ETC.

	Fiscal Year 1944–45.	Fiscal Year 1945–46.
Cases who are the responsibility of a municipality (80 per cent. paid by Province)	$841,279.28	$897,595.06
Cases who are the sole responsibility of the Province (100 per cent. paid by Province)	460,653.80	525,121.05
Repatriation, transportation within the Province, nursing-home care (other than T.B.) for Provincial cases	14,055.29	12,545.03
Medical Services—Provincial and municipal cases (Social Allowance, Old-age Pensioners, and Mothers' Allowance cases)	117,780.64	146,269.89

	Fiscal Year 1944–45.	Fiscal Year 1945–46.
Emergency payments—such as where family may lose their home by fire or similar circumstances	$2,231.14	$608.17
Municipal and Provincial cases—		
(*a.*) Tuberculosis nursing-home cases	640.94	----------
(*b.*) Tuberculosis private home cases	53,790.61	127,931.41
(*c.*) Transportation of tuberculosis cases	1,622.95	2,002.50
(*d.*) Comforts allowance for tuberculosis cases	52.50	3,315.00
Dependents of conscientious objectors	468.90	1,179.30
Dependents of enemy aliens	4,026.57	871.91
Allowances to Saskatchewan Mennonites	4,486.35	856.52
Allowances to Japanese persons	----------	121.20
	$1,501,088.97	$1,718,417.04
Less recovered by refund and payment from Dominion Government, "Conscientious Objectors"	$468.90	$1,179.30
Less recovered by refund and payment from Dominion Government, "Dependents of Enemy Aliens"	4,026.57	871.91
Less recovered from Province of Saskatchewan, "Mennonite Settlers"	4,486.35	856.52
Less recovered by refund and payment from Dominion Government, "Allowances to Japanese Persons"	----------	121.20
Total refunds	$8,981.82	$3,028.93
Total expenditure by Province	$1,492,107.15	$1,715,388.11

This form of assistance is administered by the local area, municipal or Provincial, in which the recipient resides. The Provincial Government's contribution to municipalities for municipal cases remained the same as in the previous year; namely, 80 per cent. of the amount of the allowances based on our Social Allowance Guide. Allowances to Provincial responsibilities are assumed entirely by the Province.

It will be noted that there is a considerable increase in expenditure because of the Government's "control of tuberculosis" policy. This, I believe, is accounted for in great measure by municipal officials becoming better acquainted with our policy and a realization by social workers, both municipal and Provincial, of the necessity of increased allowances for persons suffering from or in contact with this disease. I feel confident that this extra expenditure is making a definite contribution towards the objective of "control of tuberculosis."

Allowances to Mennonite settlers were terminated during the year, as the terms of our agreement with the Province of Saskatchewan have been fulfilled. There is good reason to believe that these people will become useful settlers in this Province.

The assistance granted to the dependents of conscientious objectors, interned enemy aliens, and certain Japanese is a responsibility of the Dominion Government, who have reimbursed us for the aid granted.

Present indications are that an increase in this form of assistance may be expected, due mainly to the reasons already set out in this report.

C. W. LUNDY,
Director of Welfare.