PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Annual Report of

The Social Welfare Branch

of the Department of
Health and Welfare

For the Year ended March 31st

1947

VICTORIA, B.C.:
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1947.

VICTORIA, B.C., November 25th, 1947.

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 Welfare Branch of the Department of Health and Welfare for the year ended March 31st, 1947, is herewith respectfully submitted.

GEO. 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, 1947.

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 Welfare Branch for the year ended March 31st, 1947.

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 WELFARE BRANCH.

VICTORIA, B.C., November 21st, 1947.

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

SIR,—It is with pleasure that I submit the Annual Report of the Social Welfare Branch of the Department of Health and Welfare for the year ended March 31st, 1947.

In the pages following will be found the reports of the various divisions comprising the Branch. It will be noted that in the Branch report there are for the first time the annual reports of the Boys' and Girls' Industrial Schools and the Provincial Home. These institutions now come under the general administration of the Social Welfare Branch.

As in past reports, divisional heads have placed emphasis on the items particularly pertaining to their administrations, but I should like to comment on a few phases of our activities.

During this past year there were two developments of major importance. The first of these was the establishment of the Department of Health and Welfare on October 1st, 1946, under the Minister of Health and Welfare and a Deputy Minister of Health and a Deputy Minister of Welfare. On the formation of this new Department our Branch became known as the Social Welfare Branch. This has meant some rearrangement of responsibilities as between departments and branches, and I am confident I speak for all our staff in expressing pleasure that our Branch has been given this greater recognition.

The other development to which I refer was the decentralization of supervision, which also was instituted on October 1st, 1946. This was a radical departure from past methods of case-work supervision and was prompted by the desire to give better service to the residents of this Province and more help to our social workers in carrying generalized case-loads. Supervisors are strategically located with these ends in view. While it is too early to properly assess the value of this procedure, it is already evident that cases are being dealt with more expeditiously and workers are profiting by on-the-job supervision. This move will, I am sure, be reflected in a higher standard of case-work being given by our field staff. In her report, the Assistant Director of Welfare has dealt in more detail with this forward move.

In reviewing the report on mothers' allowances it will be noted that the numbers receiving this form of assistance have steadily decreased since 1940. In administering the "Mothers' Allowances Act," the peak was reached in May, 1940, when there were 1,778 active cases. In March, 1947, active cases numbered only 863, which is but 46.85 per cent. of the May, 1940, total. Various reasons can be advanced for this marked decrease. The first and most important is undoubtedly improved economic conditions prevailing during the past few years. In the annual reports of the administration of the "Mothers' Allowances Act" will be found the reasons for cancellation of allowances. The fact remains, however, that there is a falling-off in the number of new applications and reapplications. To some extent at least, this is explained by the broad coverage of our "Social Assistance Act," which would appear capable of meeting every situation. This, of course, raises the question of categorical assistance, the necessity of which is questioned by many of our staff.

The report of the Old-age Pension Board is, I consider, of special interest, as the year under review marks the twentieth anniversary of the granting of old-age pensions in British Columbia. In his report the Chairman of the Board has given a brief history of old-age pensions in Canada, together with a few details of the first one hundred to receive the pension in this Province. It can be a matter of pride that not

only was British Columbia the first Province to grant old-age pensions, but that twenty years later the amount of pension together with the supplementary allowance and other benefits place us in a position second to none in the whole of Canada. Of some significance is the fact that while 180 old-age and blind pensioners were transferred from British Columbia to other Provinces, a total of 605 were transferred in from other Provinces.

Social allowances have shown an increase this past year both in costs and in numbers receiving aid. In endeavouring to determine the reasons for this, I feel that we must not lose sight of the fact that during the war years many persons formerly considered unemployable or but partially employable obtained employment of such a nature that assistance was no longer required. Since the end of the war, employment opportunities to this type of person have not been available to the same extent, and as a consequence a fair number have been forced to apply or reapply for assistance. Another factor which undoubtedly has some bearing is the increased population of this Province. In March, 1942, there were 14,617 persons receiving this form of aid, and at that time our population was estimated at 870,000.* In March, 1947, 10,753 were receiving social allowances, but our population for 1947 is estimated at 1,044,000.* Our 1945 population was estimated at 949,000,* which means there has been an increase of 95,000 during the past two years. In view of these circumstances I cannot think that the increase in numbers on social allowance during the past two years is alarming. Present indications are, however, that a further increase must be expected.

As more people come to reside in this Province, it follows naturally that more demands will be made on every division of our Branch. This will be particularly reflected in our Medical Services Division, which has shown a decided increase in expenditure this year. The amendments to the "Old Age Pensions Act" and regulations, soon to become effective, will result in a greater number of applicants for pensions. It is this older group which accounts in a great measure for medical services costs, and I foresee higher expenditures in this Division during the coming year.

This past year has been difficult in that severe strains were placed on all divisions as well as the field staff in preparing for and in the transitional period to the decentralization of supervision. In her report, the Superintendent of Child Welfare has amplified this to some extent. With the splendid co-operation of all divisional heads, supervisors, and workers, this was accomplished with but the minimum of disruption of day-to-day duties.

The staff situation is one that has given some concern, but, as pointed out by the Assistant Director of Welfare, this has improved somewhat. I anticipate a considerable increase in our over-all case-load for the coming year, but I believe we are in a position to effectively deal with all demands made upon us. The Social Welfare Branch is playing an increasingly important rôle in the everyday life of the residents of British Columbia, and it shall be our constant endeavour to render the best possible service to those whom it is not only our duty, but privilege, to assist. In doing so, we shall ever be mindful of the fact that the funds which we expend are supplied by the taxpayers of this Province.

May I again take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the assistance and co-operation I have received from municipal officials, branch and divisional heads, and regional administrators. Our field staff of supervisors and social workers have completed another year of work such as would leave no question as to their ability, industry, and loyalty. Their ready acceptance and whole-hearted fulfilment of Branch policy have made possible the forward steps undertaken by our Branch in ministering to the social welfare needs of the people of this Province.

Respectfully submitted.

C. W. LUNDY,
Director of Welfare.

* Dominion Bureau of Statistics estimates.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF WELFARE.

The most important development in the year under review was the achievement of decentralized administration and supervision. Regional administrators, as reported by the Director of Welfare, now have delegated authority to make expenditures, while case-work supervisors have been given authority to sanction the expenditures recommended by the social worker.

Decentralizing supervision of social workers has proved to be an economical, practical, and satisfactory move. The old method of supervision by correspondence was wholly inadequate, involving large staffs in divisional offices and much waste in time, effort, and stationery. Not only was the old method not economical, but it tended to emphasize categorical thinking on the part of the social worker. Now the worker may discuss the case with the supervisor across the desk, and instead of thinking of the problems as belonging to one pigeon-hole or another, he may now think of the family as a whole needing family case-work treatment. The case-worker can now use and develop his professional skills under the supervisor's guidance, for staff development is a part of supervision. Old frustrations, too, have been removed, occasioned by waiting for long periods of time for advice before taking action, and by the inevitable misinterpretation of supervisory memos.

Four months' preparation was provided in which the supervisors had an opportunity to spend a week or more in each divisional office learning procedures, and on October 1st, 1946, decentralization was achieved. There were only enough supervisors with the required training and experience to staff four of the regions at this time, Region 5, the northern area of the Province, carrying on under the old method of supervision by correspondence.

With such a new undertaking it was presumed that the case-work supervisors themselves would require helpful guidance, as uniform methods of supervision were considered to be essential to sound development. For these reasons, in three of the regions, regional supervisors were appointed, their task to co-ordinate methods, give counsel to supervisors, and generally to be the channel through which problems, of which there were many in the first six months under decentralization, should reach the administration or the division concerned.

Thus the pattern now established in the field is as follows:—

Regional administrators, who work under the delegated authority of the Director of Welfare in the matter of authorizing expenditures under the "Social Assistance Act" and under the Assistant Director of Welfare in the matter of personnel, office administration, statistics, transportation, etc.

Regional supervisors (in three regions to co-ordinate the methods of supervision, to give guidance to case-work supervisors, and to act as the final field authority in the matter of case-work planning on individual problem cases.

Case-work supervisors, who give face-to-face supervision to the social workers in the district and municipal social welfare offices assigned to them, planning with the worker on every case, sanctioning expenditures, and, through consistent teaching, assisting the staff to raise their standards of performance for the sake of the client.

Social workers in both Provincial and municipal offices, the former carrying out a generalized case-work job involving all the programs provided by social legislation, the latter carrying out the work involved in social assistance programs only—social allowances, mothers' allowances, old-age pensions.

Clerical staff to provide the necessary accounting and stenographic work involved in the careful records kept of all work performed.

The pattern in divisional offices has changed from one of giving supervision on every case to one of giving expert consultation in one specialized form of service—child welfare, family services, medical social work, psychiatric social work. In some divisions the legal implications of their programs must remain the prerogative of the divisional head. This legal and consultative responsibility therefore has become the divisions' chief function under decentralization. The statistics given below closely follow the set-up of last year's report in order that comparisons may easily be made.

DISTRICT OFFICES.

There are thirty-six social welfare offices in the Province—twenty-one under Provincial jurisdiction and fifteen under municipal jurisdiction.

PERSONNEL.

Actual appointments made during the year totalled fifty-three. To offset this there were thirty-four resignations and retirements, which shows an actual increase of only nineteen. Five members of the staff were given leave of absence for educational purposes. The following figures show the number of social workers in both district and divisional offices:—

	April 1st, 1946.			March 31st, 1947.		
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.
District offices	35	36	71	35	56	91
Regional administrators	5	....	5	6	....	6
	40	36	76	41	56	97
Divisional offices	5	35	40	5	32	37
	45	71	116	46	88	134
Leave of absence	2	3	5	5	1	6
Totals	47	74	121	51	89	140

DIVISIONAL OFFICES.

In addition to divisional offices shown last year, the Girls' Industrial School has been added. In divisional offices such as family services, child welfare, and old-age pensions the function is entirely administrative and supervisory in character, whereas in divisions such as psychiatric and tuberculosis there are patients in the institutions and case-workers must be allocated to these divisions in addition to the supervisors carrying administrative and supervisory responsibilities. The following figures show how the above total of 37 is made up:—

	Administrative Supervisory.	Case-workers.
General administration	2	----
Child Welfare	6	----
Family Services	1	----
Old-age pensions	2	----
Psychiatric Division (general)	1	----
Mental hospital	2	6
Child guidance clinics	3	1
Medical social work (general)	1	----
Tuberculosis Division	1	6
Venereal Disease Division	----	1

	Administrative Supervisory.	Case-workers.	
Research Consultant	1	---	
Training Supervisor	1	---	
Boys' Industrial School	---	1	
Girls' Industrial School	1	---	
	22	15	
Total			37

At the end of the fiscal year the standing in regard to municipal agreements under the "Social Assistance Act" was as follows: Worker for worker, 10; Municipal worker (50 per cent. of salary paid by Province), 7. The balance of the municipalities have agreed to pay for services rendered at 15 cents *per capita*, based on population.

CASE-LOADS.

The case-loads reported from the field for the month of March, 1947, were as follows:—

Social Assistance Branch—	
Social allowance	6,638
Mothers' allowance	915
Family services	775
Old-age pension	18,692
Child Welfare Division	3,409
Provincial Board of Health—	
Tuberculosis Division	348
Venereal Disease Division	5
Hospitals and institutions—	
Mental hospital	446
Child guidance clinic	87
Hospital clearance	17
Welfare institutions	82
Provincial Infirmary	36
Collections	69
Federal services—	
Family allowances	1
Dependents' Board of Trustees	8
Dependents' Allowance Board	2
Others	3
Directorate of Social Science	---
War veterans' allowance	5
Total	31,538

This figure shows an increase of 2,472 over last year. The average case-load carried by the district workers as at March 31st, 1947, was 272, as against 320 at the beginning of the fiscal year.

SUPERVISORS' COUNCIL.

The Supervisors' Council, composed of the senior officials from each division, has had an active year, guiding the various stages in preparation for decentralization. The Policy Manual was completed and distributed to the staff as a whole, its three

volumes outlining not only procedures involved in all forms of the work but also enunciating the philosophy underlying the program in question. The fourth volume is composed of sample forms. A few copies of this manual have been circulated to universities, other public welfare departments outside the Province, and to the American Public Welfare Association.

The Council, in the year under review, set up a committee composed of all case-work supervisors, to which have been assigned particular topics for exhaustive study. This study committee has worked diligently, producing excellent material on methods of recording and staff evaluations. Their recommendations have been particularly valid, as the staff as a whole in regular staff meetings throughout the Province was consulted, and their opinions incorporated in the studies. Many of these were adopted, or are in the process of being adopted.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT.

Decentralized supervision marks the greatest step toward continuous staff development. Supervision and evaluation of staff implies constant learning and professional growth on the job, and good results are bound to show in the years ahead in terms of better service to the client.

Two in-service training classes were completed in the year under review. The first, from June to September, included seven recruits, two of whom were municipally appointed workers. The second, from October to December, was composed of twenty persons, five of whom were municipal workers.

Orientation periods were arranged for all graduates from the University school of social work and for those coming on the staff from other agencies. Two weeks was considered a sufficient time in which to visit each of the divisions and institutions before going to the field.

PUBLICATIONS.

The staff bulletin changed its name to "British Columbia's Welfare," and an attractive cover featuring a picture of the Parliament Buildings was designed. Articles of an educational and informative nature, book reviews, news of the regions and municipalities, and notes about staff continued to comprise the contents. Circulation rose from 313 to 485 within the year.

LIBRARY.

At the end of the year under review the library contained 460 professional books and pamphlets. Circulation was high, an average of 85 books per month being distributed to the staff, in-service trainees, and University students doing field-work in our offices.

The library is housed in a large airy room in the Court-house, Vancouver, which was acquired during this year. Furnished with well-made book-shelves built by the Court-house carpenters, and with reading-tables, it provides an excellent room for large or small meetings, as well as for in-service training lectures. The training supervisor has her office in this room, moving from loaned quarters at the City Social Service Department at 530 Cambie Street in July.

An average of twenty meetings per month have been held in the library since this room was acquired, and numerous students and others have used it for quiet study.

CONFERENCES.

A conference of all those involved in the launching of decentralization convened in the last week in September. Attended by the general administration, divisional heads and supervisors, regional administrators and supervisors, and case-work super-

visors newly assigned to field offices, the conference formed a necessary clearing-ground for all matters related to decentralization. Every anticipated problem was reviewed, and clarification obtained as to the new relationship between field and divisions.

The high enthusiasm evinced at this conference carried over into the ensuing months, and in spite of predicted hard work and difficulty occasioned by the change to decentralization, reports from the field indicated satisfactory results.

STUDENT PLACEMENT.

The University school of social work became this year accredited under the American Association of Schools of Social Work, granting a bachelor of social work degree at the conclusion of one term of study and a master's degree after two years of study. As the University considers that first-year students should have a thorough grounding in the generalized field, with only second-year students specializing, none were placed in divisional offices as in previous years. Fourteen students were placed in offices adjacent to Vancouver—New Westminster, Burnaby, Vancouver district, and North Vancouver —to be supervised by Provincial case-work supervisors.

CONCLUSION.

From the foregoing it will be obvious that the whole Branch directed all its efforts this year toward achieving decentralization. Planning and preparation occupied six months, and successfully launching the operation involved the remainder of the year. This objective was one of the goals set many years ago, and its achievement is a matter of pride to everyone in the Branch. With a well-established economical administration and with competent administrators and supervisors in the field, it is our new objective to increase the quality of the work performed. The way is now clear to do more and more constructive rehabilitation work, resulting in an ultimate saving of public money and a more immediate saving of human values and family life throughout the Province.

Respectfully submitted.

AMY LEIGH,
Assistant Director of Welfare.

CHILD WELFARE DIVISION.

In many ways this past fiscal year has been one of the most eventful in the Child Welfare Division. On October 1st, 1946, we, like other divisions of the Social Welfare Branch, decentralized a large degree of administration to district offices. Up to that date all authority and responsibility for administration and supervision was centralized in Divisional office. The expansion of services during the past few years and resultant increase in district office staffs made it evident that the supervision required had to be something more than we could possibly give by memo. It was also apparent that if district staffs were to develop their initiative and skills, there must be a greater sharing of responsibility as between Division and district staffs.

The authorities and responsibilities vested in the Superintendent of Child Welfare under our three pieces of children's legislation—" Protection of Children Act," " Adoption Act," and " Children of Unmarried Parents' Act "—are essential and basic to a good child welfare program. They could not, and should not, be weakened by a complete decentralization. We therefore delegated to the field those duties and responsibilities which would tend to simplify and improve service to the client, and retained in Divisional office those responsibilities and authorities we believe provide the necessary safeguards to an all-over child welfare program.

Responsibility for actual case-carrying and supervision of staffs is decentralized to the district, but the following authorities and responsibilities remain centralized in Divisional office:—

(1) Authority to apprehend a child under the " Protection of Children Act ":
(2) Authority to admit a child to care as a non-ward:
(3) Authority to apply to Court to rescind a committal order under the " Protection of Children Act ":
(4) Responsibility for submitting the final report and recommendation to Supreme Court on adoption applications:
(5) Responsibility for disbursing collections under the " Children of Unmarried Parents' Act ":
(6) Responsibility for obtaining and submitting reports to Supreme Court on custody of children applications:
(7) Payment of all accounts for children in care.

The retaining of these authorities in Divisional office provides a safeguard to our legislative obligations and standards of work, and should strengthen the relationship between case-work supervisors and workers with Divisional office. Each shares in the making of decisions, and while the final word in these specific administrative areas lies in Divisional office, each has opportunity to express his thinking.

Decentralization has been in effect for five months. There have been, and will continue to be for a time, inevitable transitional difficulties, but already things are beginning to take shape both in the Division and in the districts. The success of the plan depends upon an adequate number of qualified and experienced district case-work supervisors. As more district offices become adequately staffed in this regard, the difficulties now being encountered will diminish.

During this transitional period Divisional office has a dual rôle to play: to assist case-work supervisors in their new responsibilities by conference when possible and where this is geographically impossible to confer by letter, and to see that our legislative responsibilities toward children in their own homes or apart from them are fulfilled.

The first few months of decentralization and the four months preceding October 1st, 1946, made very heavy demands upon the decreased Divisional office staff. First, an orientation period was arranged in the Division for all case-work supervisors before going to the field. Those going from the Child Welfare Division were given an oppor-

tunity to spend time in other divisions in order that they might be familiar with all phases of the Social Welfare Branch program. In the meantime the daily volume of work in the Division did not decrease. Members of both the clerical and social work staff are to be commended for the willingness with which they gave of their time and energy in an effort to keep abreast of the work of the Division.

Anticipating a marked decrease in volume of mail and work in the Division, the social work staff of fourteen members was decreased throughout the summer to six as at October 1st, 1946, and the clerical staff of twenty-two to thirteen. Fortunately we were able to take care of this latter decrease through ordinary resignations for personal reasons throughout the summer, and no member of staff was asked to leave.

Two members of the social work staff were appointed as district case-work supervisors; two went to the field as district social workers; one was transferred to another Divisional office; one went to a Children's Aid Society as supervisor; and two temporary members left the service as planned—one of these was Miss Zella Collins, whose record in child welfare work requires no elaboration in British Columbia or Canada. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to Miss Collins for her help and untiring support during her stay in the Division. It has been a privilege to work with her and to test our thinking in the light of her long and broad experiences. We wish her well in her new work and know she will continue to be a source of knowledge and support to us outside the Division.

It is difficult to anticipate the effect a change in organization will have on the volume and content of work. This was particularly true in regard to Divisional office's immediate responsibilities under decentralization. Orientation periods cannot provide opportunity to learn all things, and case-work supervisors can only do so much. It became apparent almost at once that Divisional office would have to continue to give to the field a great deal of help and support on individual case situations until district workers became familiar with changed policies and procedures and case-work supervisors more secure in their new rôles. The Divisional staff has endeavoured to do this, but in the next year, and perhaps for some time to come, we will require additional staff members and improved methods of bringing to district case-work supervisors and staffs material and thinking which will be of help to them in their own and their staffs' development.

However, in spite of the increased pressures the Division and the district staffs have felt during these past few months, there is no desire to return to centralization. On the contrary, we are more than ever convinced that the plan of decentralization is sound and good, and that the future under such a plan holds promise of better-trained and more competent staffs, with resulting improved services to people.

The function of the Child Welfare Division will change gradually to one of a more truly child welfare consultative service to the field, and this change will be geared to meet the gradually changing needs of the field.

"PROTECTION OF CHILDREN ACT."

A total of 924 families with about 2,775 children were known during the past year to district workers as children in need of protection. Of this number, 59 children from 41 families were apprehended under the "Protection of Children Act."

	Number of Children apprehended.	Number of Families.
Region 1	6	5
Region 2	26	17
Region 3	7	5
Region 4	9	4
Region 5	11	10
Totals	59	41

Twenty-two of the children from 7 families were made wards of the Superintendent of Child Welfare. Applications to commit 22 children from 9 families are still before the Court awaiting completion as at March 31st, 1947. Applications to commit 12 children from 9 families were withdrawn when the parents were subsequently helped to make satisfactory plans for their care. One child was apprehended but not presented, as the parent was located within a short time and proved himself capable of planning adequately for his child. An application to commit 2 children from 1 family was dismissed by the Court.

In this last application we considered there was strong evidence against the parents of physical cruelty to the children, and the fact that onus of responsibility for their well-being now rests with the Court does not lessen our concern for them. The outcome of this hearing emphasizes the need for greater interpretation of our work to all members of a community in order that our responsibility to children may be better understood.

"JUVENILE DELINQUENTS ACT."

In addition to these 59 children admitted under the "Protection of Children Act," there were 12 children made wards of the Superintendent of Child Welfare under the "Juvenile Delinquents Act."

	Number of Children.	Number of Families.	Age of Child.						
			9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
Region 1	4	4	....	....	....	....	1	1	2
Region 2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Region 3	1	1	....	....	....	1	....	....	....
Region 4	7	6	2	1	1	2	....	....	1
Region 5	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Totals	12	11	2	1	1	3	1	1	3

These children were all before the Court as delinquents under the "Juvenile Delinquents Act," and we regret the haste with which some of them were removed from their homes. We look forward, under decentralization, to the possibility of there being a conference between the local social worker and the Court before the case is disposed of in every instance where a child is in difficulty. In this way everything possible could be done to enable the child to adjust in his own family group. If removal is indicated, there would be proper opportunity to prepare the child and his family for the separation and placement.

The Provincial Police department has assisted us greatly in our work with juveniles in their agreement to notify the district worker routinely of a Juvenile Court hearing. Their understanding of the value of this policy is much appreciated.

Of the 12 children committed to the Superintendent of Child Welfare under the "Juvenile Delinquents Act," 7 are still in our care, 3 have been returned to their parents, 1 was allowed to go and live with an interested uncle, and 1, although made a ward of the Superintendent of Child Welfare, was given permission by the Court to remain with his father.

NON-WARD CARE.

In addition to the 71 children admitted under the "Protection of Children Act" and "Juvenile Delinquents Act," district workers took into care 153 children from 104 families on a non-ward preventive basis.

	Number of Children.
Region 1	19
Region 2	62
Region 3	30
Region 4	19
Region 5	23
Total	153

Forty-one of these children were children of unmarried mothers, for whom plans for adoption placement or return to their mothers' homes were in process of being completed. The remaining 112 were children whose parents or sole surviving parent was unable temporarily to care for them either because of some family crisis, as illness or death of the mother, or because the child himself for innumerable reasons was finding life too difficult in his own home. A period apart from his family held hope of opportunity to resolve some of the problems of the children in this latter group. Some have benefited from placement, but more and more workers are coming to realize that placement apart from parents is not the answer in all situations and that a greater emphasis must be placed on work with the child and his parents in his own home. The opportunity offered through decentralization to expand our resources in the field of family case-work will pay high dividends in our program of preventive work.

As at March 31st, 1947, 46 of the children admitted to non-ward care had been discharged to their parents, 9 were placed for adoption, 1 was discharged to a Children's Aid Society for supervision when the parent moved into their jurisdiction, and 97 of them were still in care.

RELATIONSHIP WITH MUNICIPALITIES.

The increased municipal participation in all phases of the social assistance program during the past two years has done much to increase municipal understanding and interest in matters pertaining to children. They have appreciated the Government policy to share with them on an 80-per-cent. basis the cost of children in non-ward care. The cost to municipalities of ward care, however, is still heavy, and it is gratifying to know that the Government is even now giving consideration to the possibility of the Department assuming a portion of the cost of ward care similar to what they are now paying in non-ward care.

The following table shows the number of children who have been in the care of the Superintendent of Child Welfare during the past fiscal year and the districts in which they have been placed:—

	Children in Care during Fiscal Year.						Children in Care March 31st, 1947.					
	Wards.	Non-wards.	C.A.S. Wards.	C.A.S. Non-wards.	O.P. Wds.*	Total.	Wards.	Non-wards.	C.A.S. Wards.	C.A.S. Non-Wards.	O.P. Wds.*	Total.
Region 1.												
Alberni	2	1	.....	.....	.....	3	2	1	.....	.....	.....	3
Courtenay	15	18	.....	.....	.....	33	13	16	.....	.....	.....	29
Nanaimo	23	19	1	.....	.....	43	21	15	.....	.....	.....	36
Duncan	10	6	2	1	.....	19	10	5	2	1	.....	18
Victoria	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	2
Totals	50	44	5	1	.....	100	46	37	4	1	.....	88
Region 2.												
Chilliwack	8	12	2	.....	1	23	6	5	1	.....	1	13
Vancouver	.....	4	.....	.....	.....	4	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	3
Burnaby	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
New Westminster	5	7	1	.....	.....	13	2	4	1	.....	.....	7
Abbotsford	27	21	2	.....	4	54	27	17	2	.....	4	50
North Vancouver	3	13	.....	.....	1	17	2	9	.....	.....	1	12
Cloverdale	1	5	.....	.....	.....	6	1	3	.....	.....	.....	4
Totals	45	62	5	.....	6	118	39	41	4	.....	6	90
Region 3.												
Kelowna	9	14	2	.....	3	28	9	7	2	.....	3	21
Salmon Arm	13	6	.....	.....	.....	19	10	3	.....	.....	.....	13
Penticton	44	28	4	.....	.....	76	41	24	3	.....	.....	68
Vernon	27	33	4	1	.....	65	21	28	4	1	.....	54
Kamloops	9	9	5	.....	.....	23	9	7	4	.....	.....	20
Totals	102	90	15	1	3	211	90	69	13	1	3	176
Region 4.												
Cranbrook	23	13	.....	1	.....	37	15	10	.....	1	.....	26
Nelson	31	12	2	.....	.....	45	31	11	2	.....	.....	44
Fernie	8	3	.....	.....	.....	11	6	2	.....	.....	.....	8
Totals	62	28	2	1	.....	93	52	23	2	1	.....	78
Region 5.												
Pouce Coupe	3	4	.....	.....	.....	7	3	3	.....	.....	.....	6
Prince George	3	7	2	.....	.....	12	3	7	2	.....	.....	12
Prince Rupert	5	9	4	.....	.....	18	4	9	4	.....	.....	17
Quesnel	6	7	2	.....	.....	15	6	6	2	.....	.....	14
Totals	17	27	8	.....	.....	52	16	25	8	.....	.....	49
Region 1	50	44	5	1	.....	100	46	37	4	1	.....	88
Region 2	45	62	5	.....	6	118	39	41	4	.....	6	90
Region 3	102	90	15	1	3	211	90	69	13	1	3	176
Region 4	62	28	2	1	.....	93	52	23	2	1	.....	78
Region 5	17	27	8	.....	.....	52	16	25	8	.....	.....	49
Grand totals	276	251	35	3	9	574	243	195	31	3	9	481

* Other Province wards (cost of maintenance refunded by responsible Provinces).

Financial Responsibility.

Children in Care during Fiscal Year.

Municipal responsibility 130
Provincial responsibility 444

Children in Care March 31st, 1947.

Municipal responsibility 125
Provincial responsibility 356

In addition to these children, we asked a Children's Aid Society to care for the following children:—

CHILDREN IN CARE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF CHILD WELFARE PLACED WITH CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES.

Children's Aid Society.	Wards during Year.	Non-wards during Year.	Wards, Mar. 31, 1947.	Non-wards, Mar. 31, 1947.	Total in Year.	Total, Mar. 31, 1947.
Vancouver	31	110	28	82	141	110
Victoria	11	20	8	13	31	21
Catholic	19	22	17	15	41	32
Totals	61	152	53	110	213	163

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.	In Year.	Mar. 31, 1947.
Municipal	88	78
Provincial	125	85

We also had 3 wards placed with relatives in another Province. Two wards continued to require care in the Provincial Mental Hospital and 2 wards were in the Boys' Industrial School. Both of these boys had been committed to that institution in the previous fiscal year.

In total, the Superintendent of Child Welfare assumed responsibility for 794 children during the fiscal year:—

Wards—	
Of Superintendent	344
Of Children's Aid Society	35
Of other Provinces	9
Non-wards—	
Of Superintendent	403
Of Children's Aid Society	3
Total	794

At March 31st, 1947, the Superintendent of Child Welfare had in care:—

Wards—	
Of Superintendent	302
Of Children's Aid Society	31
Of other Provinces	9
Non-wards—	
Of Superintendent	305
Of Children's Aid Society	3
Total	650

EXPENDITURES.

The following expenditures were made by the Division in the fiscal year:—

Paid by Provincial Government to Children's Aid Societies for maintenance of children	$156,337.78	
Less payments made by municipalities and parents	29,430.25	
		$126,907.53
Cost of maintaining wards and non-wards in Child Welfare Division foster-homes	$91,561.97	
Less payments made by Municipalities and parents	34,253.73	
		57,308.22
Transportation of children in Child Welfare Division care	$3,689.52	
Less payments made by parents	379.20	
		3,310.32
Net expenditure		$187,526.07

MEDICAL PROGRAM.

The health of our children has been good during the past year. Looking over the medical accounts received, their ailments appear to have been about the usual suffered by children with their own parents—eye examinations and prescriptions for glasses, repairs to glasses; chicken-pox; minor infections of fingers, heel, arm, and hand; circumcision; an appendectomy; sore knee; headache; poison ivy, etc. There were no serious accidents and no serious complications following any of the ailments.

A few children, however, with involved and serious physical handicaps have been admitted, for whom we have tried to provide specialist services. One 10-year-old boy, so badly crippled with arthritis he could not walk and crawled only with difficulty, has been in care a number of months. It was frustrating to learn that this little boy could not be helped medically, but there was at least some satisfaction in knowing that all available advice has been obtained and that these months have afforded some opportunity for his training and for preparing his family to care for him more adequately when he returns to them.

There is a question to be raised as to our facilities to care for the severely physically handicapped child. Treatment facilities for those who may benefit seem fairly adequate, but for the chronically handicapped child there are few resources. An institution is not the answer for all. Some could better continue in their own homes with their own parents and sisters and brothers. Theirs will inevitably be a lonely and limited adult life, and they should have at least some knowledge and memory of the warmth and affection of life with their family. Some effort will need to be made to determine the size of the problem throughout the Province and wherever possible to provide help in the family home to enable the child to remain in his own home. This might entail some additional financial aid or the employment of housekeeper services on a part-time or full-time basis in order that the mother be relieved of some of the burden. In other instances bedside nursing services, where available, would help greatly.

There is also a need to plan with educationists for the teaching and training of these children. Many of them cannot participate in ordinary school curricula, but are intellectually capable of learning many things. As they grow older, some may

require permanent institutional care, but if their stay in their homes has been made brighter and more comfortable, the later years of separation from family will be less difficult.

Responsibility for medical care for children in care is delegated to the foster-mother under the supervision of the social worker. When a school doctor is in the district, the child receives the usual examinations, and the prescribed treatment and preventive medicine measures are carried out, such as vaccination, toxoid, etc. A yearly examination by the local medical practitioner is also arranged for each child in order to complete our own medical record. In the case of illness of any child, the foster-mother calls the local doctor and notifies the social worker. If the treatment prescribed or indicated is not procurable locally, the child is brought to a medical centre. In districts where our foster-home program is well established, we are receiving excellent co-operation from the medical profession. In some districts there is need for further interpretation of our work to doctors and public health nurses, but this will be accomplished as our decentralized district offices become more stabilized.

Dental care is arranged locally also, and although we have felt the shortage of dentists throughout the Province, as all families have, the dental health of our children has been good.

In this fiscal year we spent $2,730.67 on medical and dental accounts for children in Child Welfare Division foster-homes, or about $5 per child in care. This does not represent the total cost of our medical program, however, since many doctors throughout the Province prefer not to charge for these services or to provide them at a reduced rate. Also, to date we have not been required to pay for children needing any form of hospitalization, since such institutions are in receipt of Government grants and subsidy.

The cost of medical treatment for our children who were in the care of a Children's Aid Society is, of course, included in the *per capita* rates paid the society.

CLOTHING.

The sum of $12,326.23 was spent on clothing this year for children in Child Welfare Division foster-homes, or about $15.60 per child. This item has shown a considerable increase this year and reflects the increase in general cost of living. Most foster-parents prefer that the Child Welfare Division pay for all clothing rather than receive what we term the " higher rate " and pay for clothing themselves, but the figure quoted is not truly representative of this cost, since some do prefer to purchase the clothing themselves out of the foster-home rate paid.

The rates during the fiscal year were:—

Type A (Foster-mother supplies Clothing).

	Per Week.		Per Week.
Up to 6 years	$4.30	10–14 years	$4.80
6–10 years	4.55	14–18 years	5.20

Type B (Child Welfare Division supplies Clothing).

	Per Week.		Per Week.
Up to 6 years	$4.00	10–14 years	$4.40
6–10 years	4.20	14–18 years	4.55

It would appear necessary for us to consider the need to increase these rates next year in view of the constant rise in cost of living generally.

We do appreciate the flexibility of Government policy which enables us to offer a special rate to foster-parents for certain children who require extra care and attention. If we were not able to do this, we would be hard pressed to plan adequately

for some children. For instance, the 10-year-old crippled boy who had to be tended like an infant, or the little girl whose complete unhappiness upon admission made it impossible for her to remain continent either day or night, or the teen-age boy who came from Juvenile Court because of stealing, rudeness, late hours, and many other unattractive traits. Such problems require infinite patience and understanding from foster mothers and fathers, and our appreciation of their interest and skills can be shown to a degree by offering them a reasonably increased rate.

EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

A goodly number of children in care are retarded at school, and this is understandable. It is not always due to a lack of ability to learn, although this is true of some. These children have all had unhappy experiences of one kind or another, and this makes good adjustments in school difficult. As a result, a few only go on to higher education or enter a professional field, and there is need to expand the present opportunities for vocational training for boys and girls in order that they may become independent adults. In a Province with so many natural industries there should be opportunities for boys in particular to learn worth-while trades, and this resource we hope to develop.

If a child shows ability and an interest to continue at school, this is made possible, and we have tried to fulfil our rôle of guardian in this instance by giving whatever help the child may require to achieve his goal. One girl, who had known a particularly unhappy home-life, wanted to be a nurse, and enrolled this year in a local hospital. We are providing her a regular allowance, out of which she will be able to buy what clothing, books, etc., she will require during her three years' training period. She is doing well in her chosen field, and, by making this comparatively small expenditure, we hope to have the satisfaction of seeing a child become self-supporting and an independent citizen. Another girl, for whom a comparable plan was worked out last year to enable her to become a teacher, sent us a substantial cheque recently, saying she wanted to "repay at least part" as she felt in this way some other child could be helped toward a better education.

Boys do not as frequently want to go on in school as girls do. Perhaps this is because employment opportunities for youths are more varied and because during the war years many were attracted from school by highly paid war-industry jobs. As district staffs become stronger and more able to give close supervision to children in care, and perhaps as we acquire more male supervisors for children, greater interest in continued schooling for boys will result.

FAMILY ALLOWANCES.

As at March 31st, 1947, 335 children in Child Welfare Division foster-homes were in receipt of family allowances. A change in Federal Government policy now requires us to withhold in trust a part of all allowances paid for children who have been in a foster-home less than one year. As a result, as at March 31st, 1947, out of a total of $19,617.27 received from the Family Allowance Department we have a Family Allowance Trust Account of $1,384.28. This money can be used from time to time at the discretion of the social worker, and, in order that he may know how much is available for each child, since decentralization we have been sending periodic statements to each district showing the balance in each child's account. In some instances the child, foster-parents, and worker think it best to leave the money to accumulate for future use in education, etc., but if purchase of some coveted article is indicated, then the money is made available. Payment of family allowance for children who have remained in the one foster-home for over a year is made direct by the Family Allowance Department to the foster-mother.

Under decentralization it will be possible in time to learn more about the uses of family allowances for foster-children. At present we are inclined to feel that it is looked upon as an increase in the total foster-family income, and foster-children benefit as own children are benefiting in that families are more able to provide extras, or on occasion luxuries, for them.

"ADOPTION ACT."

This has been an extremely active year in this field. There were 35 more applications to Supreme Court for completion of adoptions throughout the Province this year than last. The following shows the regional distribution of all applications to complete adoptions this year:—

	No.
Region 1	36
Region 2	93
Region 3	37
Region 4	21
Region 5	7
Children's Aid Societies (Vancouver and Victoria)	165
Out of Province	6
Total	365

During this past year the Child Welfare Division placed 69 children in district adoptive homes as against 35 last year. The regional distribution of these placements was:—

	No.
Region 1	11
Region 2	23
Region 3	15
Region 4	14
Region 5	6
Total	69

The demand for children for adoption still far exceeds the numbers available, except in the Roman Catholic groups. This lack of response on the part of Roman Catholic families is a constant concern to us and to the Children's Aid Society of the Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver. Babies who are not going to be reared by their own parents should be given the advantage of early placement in a permanent home. This we are not able to do for all Roman Catholic babies, and on our own behalf and in support of the Catholic agency we would like to urge all members of the Roman Catholic Church who read this report to interest themselves and others in the welfare of these children.

Number of Approved Adoption Homes awaiting Placements.

	Total.	Roman Catholic Homes.
Region 1	50	2
Region 2	67	—
Region 3	60	3
Region 4	28	2
Region 5	17	4
Totals	222	11

Of the 11 Roman Catholic homes, only 2 are available as at March 31st, 1947.

The following numbers of children were in Provincial adoption homes on adoption probation during the past year:—

	Placed by an Agency.	Placed privately.	One Adopting Parent is Natural Parent or Relative.	Total on Probation.
Region 1	35	67	40	142
Region 2	65	93	72	230
Region 3	32	33	35	100
Region 4	29	21	23	73
Region 5	15	25	25	65
Totals	176	239	195	610

Of the 610 adoptive families in our various regions, it is interesting to note in the table above by whom the placements were made. These figures show a considerable decrease in private placements, but there are still far too many, and it is still far too easy for unsuitable parents to obtain a child. Some of the results of such placements are truly shocking and indicate a need for more stringent legislation regarding the placement of children for adoption. Recently a 10-day-old baby was placed through private efforts with adopting parents from whom one child had already been removed as in need of protection under the "Protection of Children Act." The second child was in the home only a few days when a Children's Aid Society received a complaint that he, too, was in need of protection. It should not be possible for any child to be subjected to such cruel risks, and we would hope that sound legislative protection could be provided.

In recommending legislation to control private adoption placements, it could be said that we are infringing upon the rights of parents. We submit, however, that in adddition to protecting the rights of children, such legislation would also extend a protection to parents who wish to relinquish a child for adoption. By having a proper investigation made prior to the placement, they can be assured that the home in which their child is to be placed is a good and suitable one. To curtail their actions in planning the adoption placement of their children is not so much an infringement upon parental rights as it is a protection of their own and their children's rights.

These occasional instances of circumventing usual adoption-placement channels do not mean that our adoption practices are not acceptable to other professional groups or the public in general. On the contrary, we are impressed with the increased understanding of members of other professions and lay groups of the need to consider placement of children as a highly specialized field and not a task to be undertaken by anybody and everybody.

As in other areas of child welfare, we see in decentralization increased opportunity for improved adoption practices because improved supervision will help workers to make a more thoughtful evaluation of the needs of the child, his family, and the prospective new parents.

"CHILDREN OF UNMARRIED PARENTS' ACT."

Through the co-operation of doctors and other members of communities throughout the Province there has been a marked increase in the early referrals of unmarried mothers, and this has been a tremendous help to us. Because of this early contact, we are able to be of greater service to the unmarried mother and thereby make more adequate plans for her and her child.

The Government policy whereby we pay 80 per cent. of the *per capita* cost for children in non-ward care who have municipal residence also continues to be a strength in our work with the unmarried mother. Municipalities now rarely feel this cost a heavy burden and are more ready to accept a proposal to admit a child temporarily. However, we are still required to approach a municipality to underwrite 20 per cent. of the cost, and, in a small locality, this can cause a difficult situation for the unmarried mother. Many times she has left her own community in order that her predicament may not become known, and she feels her return is made almost impossible when this confidence has ultimately to be shared with those who know her "back home." This situation is equally true if the child has to be committed. Municipalities have to be notified under the "Protection of Children Act." Since these children rarely, if ever, return to grow up and live in the municipality of the mother's residence and thereby recompense the municipality by their earning and subsequent spending power, it seems reasonable to suggest that the Provincial Government consider assuming the total cost of care of the illegitimate child who for one reason or another must be reared by an agency.

There has been a small decrease in the total number of illegitimate births throughout the Province and a marked decrease in cases known to the Division during this past fiscal year. This last is largely due to the fact that we have formed a policy with the Children's Aid Societies and Family Welfare Bureaux whereby they may interview the putative father when the unmarried mother is already known to them. This is proving to be extremely satisfactory for all concerned. It eliminates a duplication of services, lessens confusion in the client's mind by referrals to other agencies, and the results have been highly satisfactory.

The collections under the "Children of Unmarried Parents Act" were $27,633.85 for the year, and are $4,378.90 less than last year. This we had anticipated with the demobilization of the armed forces. It is no longer so easy to contact the putative fathers, and if an order or agreement is obtained, it is more difficult to enforce it because civilian employment in this group usually implies working at many and various points throughout the Province in a year and probably for as many different employers.

Included in the total collections for the year is $4,397 accepted as settlement in full in fifteen cases. In each instance settlement seemed to meet best the needs of the unmarried mother, the putative father, and their child. In seven cases the money paid is being disbursed by monthly payments to the mother for the child. In eight others the amount of the settlement was meant to cover expenses incurred by the mother only, and these have been paid. The constructive use of settlements can be an important factor in our work with unmarried parents.

The following table shows the number of new unmarried-parent cases referred to the five regions during the past fiscal year as well as the total numbers carried in the year:—

	Total during Year.	New, 1946–47.	New Orders and Agreements, 1946–47.	Total Orders and Agreements.	Closed.	Total, Mar. 31, 1947.
Region 1	189	33	3	30	95	94
Region 2	518	66	8	52	297	221
Region 3	134	52	4	41	13	121
Region 4	104	27	.....	39	6	98
Region 5	89	32	2	25	6	83
Totals	1,034	210	17	187	417	617
Shared by Child Welfare Division and Children's Aid Societies	935	211	19	217	226	609
Grand totals	1,969	421	36	404	643	1,226

Under decentralization a more accurate analysis and evaluation of our work with the unmarried mother and her child will be possible. Statistics compiled in Divisional office are not without value, but only as the worker who works with the unmarried mother feels the need to know more about the results of his work can statistics become meaningful.

For instance, in the following table we have tried to learn something about where children born to unmarried parents are reared. Even from the information taken from Divisional office statistical cards the results are illuminating, but how much more so such an analysis could be when each district worker can determine not only where the child is, but also from his knowledge contribute something about the results of placement.

In agency care	15
Placed for adoption	105
With mother or relative	232
Ward under " Protection of Children Act "	35
Unknown	230
Total	617

(It is to be noted in the above figures that only 210 of these were new referrals this last fiscal year. The remaining 407 have been known to district offices for a period of two years or more.)

OVERSEAS CHILDREN.

As at April 1st, 1946, we had thirty-one overseas children in British Columbia. On March 31, 1947, there were but nine still under age and under our supervision.

Of these thirty-one children, eleven are now self-supporting and have obtained permanent resident status in Canada; two completed professional training this year and returned to England. The parents of six children came out to Canada and have now established homes in British Columbia. The parents of two children came out to British Columbia but later returned to Great Britain with them. One child under 18 years of age returned to England, and two are awaiting completion of their plans to return. Two other children are awaiting the arrival of their parents in British Columbia.

Five children still under 18 will be remaining permanently in British Columbia. Three of these will continue to live with the foster-parents, one will remain with a relative, and one is to be adopted legally by her foster-parents. These arrangements for younger children to remain in Canada are contrary to the agreement made with the Children's Overseas Reception Board at the time the overseas children arrived, but circumstances have developed within the five children's own family making it inadvisable for them to return. The arrangements for their staying in British Columbia have been discussed carefully by the overseas agencies with the parent or parents, and it is with their full agreement and understanding that these five children are remaining in Canada.

SUPREME COURT REFERRALS FOR INVESTIGATIONS *RE* CUSTODY OF CHILDREN.

During the past seven years the Supreme Court of British Columbia has asked the Superintendent of Child Welfare to have investigations made and reports submitted on several applications for the custody of children. These usually followed divorce proceedings, and some Judges have felt unwilling to make decisions as to the future custody of the children on the evidence brought out at the divorce hearings alone. Under our present legislation there is apparently no legal authority for such a request

to be made by the Court, but, because of the opinions expressed by the Chief Justice of British Columbia and a number of Judges of the Supreme Court, we have agreed to make the investigation in situations where counsel for both parties consent to such investigation being made.

We are advised by the Courts that our reports have been of value to them in dealing with so important a matter as the future welfare of children. It would therefore seem advisable for the Courts, the legal profession, and the child welfare agencies to consider the need of having legislation which would make it legally sound for such reports to be supplied to Courts upon request.

The following numbers of reports in this respect have been submitted to Supreme Courts since 1939:—

1939–40	3	1944–45	26
1940–41	2	1945–46	15
1941–42	1	1946–47	24
1942–43	18		
1943–44	51	Total	140

Of these 140 requests, 113 have been under the "Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Act" and 27 under the "Equal Guardianship of Infants Act."

RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

During the year some definite policy has been established with the Department of Indian Affairs in regard to the delinquent child and the unmarried mother and her child.

Indian children in an Industrial School usually have difficulty in adjusting to the institutional setting. The restricted quarters, the difference in cultural pattern, and the institutional routine are so completely at variance with the child's former way of life that committal to a school frequently results in undesirable behaviour.

What type of treatment would better meet the Indian child's needs is something to be considered as the Department of Indian Affairs expands its services. In the meantime we have endeavoured to form policies with the Department which would safeguard against any child remaining in an Industrial School after he has received the maximum benefit from his stay in the school. The Indian Agent, through the Inspector of Indian Agents, is kept informed of the child's progress in the school and, with the help of the local social worker, plans for the child's return to his community.

Likewise in the case of an unmarried mother, the Indian Agent, with the help of the local social worker, makes the best plan possible for mother and child within the resources of his own Department. By working with the Indian Agents through the Inspector of Indian Agents we feel we are assisting the Department of Indian Affairs to establish uniform policies in child welfare in all Provincial agencies. At the same time we are fulfilling our legislative responsibilities and offering Provincial services where indicated to this portion of the population of the Province.

We are grateful for the co-operation and help we have received from Mr. D. M. MacKay, Commissioner for Indian Affairs, and his staff.

BOYS' AND GIRLS' INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

Considerable progress has been made by the Child Welfare Division and the Boys' and Girls' Industrial Schools in establishing policies and procedures in regard to boys and girls returning to the community.

No child is now discharged from a school without some arrangement for follow-up by a social agency. This implies early and regular contact between the school and the

agency in the home community; both should be constantly aware of the child's progress in the school, as well as his family's attitude toward him.

With supervision available in the field under decentralization, work with boys and girls from the schools will become increasingly more effective.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES.

With increased Government participation in child welfare in British Columbia, a change in the function of Children's Aid Societies and other private agencies seems inevitable. As Government becomes more willing and able to assume responsibility for certain services to children, private agencies will be freed to consider the development of new and different kinds of services.

This year has seen an interesting development in this direction in the Victoria agencies. In this city there is a non-denominational Children's Aid Society and a Family Welfare Association. The boards of these two agencies are in process of considering the advantages of a combined agency and the possibilities of developing a truly family and children's services agency. This would involve an ultimate transfer of certain functions of the Children's Aid Society to the Superintendent of Child Welfare. These would lie in the area of protection and placement and supervision of wards under the "Protection of Children Act" and "Juvenile Delinquents' Act," as well as a limited number of temporary non-ward placements.

Plans for these developments are purposely moving slowly. On our part it will be necessary to prepare staffs and establish the necessary administrative organization to assume these new responsibilities, and the two private agencies will require time to work through the administrative detail of change in legal and functional responsibilities.

The development carries with it a challenge to both this Department and the private agencies concerned. When the amalgamation and subsequent transfer of work is achieved, it should offer a pattern for the future division of work and responsibilities between public and private agencies in this Province and throughout the Dominion.

There is a good working relationship between the Child Welfare Division and the three Children's Aid Societies, and we feel their continued support and understanding of the changes necessary to effect decentralization has been indicative of this.

CHILDREN IN CARE OF CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES AS AT MARCH 31ST, 1947.

Vancouver Children's Aid Society.

Wards		635
Provincial responsibility	234	
Municipal responsibility	396	
No maintenance order	4	
Child over 18 (maintenance order expired)	1	
Non-wards		235

Catholic Children's Aid Society.

Wards		311
Provincial responsibility	91	
Municipal responsibility	154	
In free institutions or homes	66	
Non-wards		118

Victoria Children's Aid Society.

Wards		102
Provincial responsibility	39	
Municipal responsibility	63	
Non-wards		64

LOYAL PROTESTANT HOME.

During this past year we have had considerable contact with the Loyal Protestant Home at New Westminster. We are gratified by the board's eagerness to discuss child care in general in an effort to see their institution become an integral part of the total child welfare program.

PRINCE OF WALES FAIRBRIDGE FARM SCHOOL.

We are also able to report a satisfactory relationship with this school. The principal of the school and the newly appointed Superintendent of Child Care have met with us frequently during the year, and together we are developing policies and procedures which would appear to offer greater safeguards in the matter of selectivity of children coming to British Columbia from Great Britain under this scheme. The appointment of a Superintendent of Child Care within the school we feel offers increased opportunity for individual planning for children.

This has indeed been a year of new and interesting developments in the Social Welfare Branch. In closing this annual report we would like to express our sincere appreciation to members of the field service staff for the help and support they have given the Child Welfare Division in its efforts to make a contribution to these developments.

RUBY MCKAY,
Superintendent of Child Welfare.

FAMILY SERVICE.

Herewith is submitted the annual report of the Family Service Section of the Family Services Division for the fiscal year ended March 31st, 1947. This was a momentous year for all the divisions of the Social Welfare Branch in that the long-sought goal of decentralization was finally achieved. It represents a period of much thought and planning and revision of procedures and policies on the part of every member of the staff, and a period in which the writer was not privileged to participate, except for the last two months of the year. Therefore this report can only embody for the most part facts and material obtained from reading of correspondence, perusal of reports, and personal discussions, and in a way, therefore, can only be a review from observation of a period in the development of family services that is already well-known history to many.

During the period under review it could perhaps be said that the Family Service Section has been placed at a disadvantage by frequent changes in the Divisional supervisory personnel. Each supervisor has contributed immeasurably to the development of family services, but any program could not escape being hampered by such a lack of continuity in direction. The thought and effort and hopes of each supervisor in turn could not be crystallized into any long-range plan of progress, but their achievement by way of consolidation of the gains already made, and a vision of the future too, should serve as a firm and sound base on which to build further the family services.

Under decentralization with the case-work supervision given in the district office by the case-work supervisor, the function of the Divisional office had to be redefined. In the Family Service Section, where for the most part a statistical card is the only record of an active case, the function was considered to be of an advisory and directional nature. It should also be a central office for the compiling of information relating to family service and a source to which the field can turn for any help they may need with family problems. Another major function of the Divisional office should be the planning of policy with other divisions of the Branch in order to be of the greatest possible help to the workers, who are the ones to implement and carry out these policies.

With these objects and aims in view it was hoped to be able to direct the program along the most effective lines to give the maximum assistance to those in the field, which would in turn enable them to render maximum service to those families faced with situations and problems which are beyond their own ability to solve.

From a brief glance in review, a little farther back, it is shown that the Family Service Section of the Family Services Division was established in 1944, and had as its purpose the consolidation and strengthening of those services offered on behalf of individuals and families where financial need was not necessarily the focal point of the situation. It was not a new service, indeed family service is the basic service in all cases of need, but rather a recognition of a type of service already being rendered by the worker in the field in those situations which did not fall within the area of the already existing specialized divisions and could not be solved by financial aid alone as economic need was not the immediate or basic problem.

Family service is also a recognition of the principle that the family is the primary and most important unit of our society. We should not lose sight of the importance of the individual, but should recognize that a family is made up of a group of such individuals bound together by a tenuous, but none the less strong, tie. Therefore, any service that can be given to strengthen that unit and prevent its breakdown is an important part of any welfare program, and a sound investment in the present and future progress of the nation, and a saving in terms of human welfare.

It has been said before that some of the problems presented, such as domestic discord, behaviour problems, destructive attitudes, and personality difficulties, can be as surely disrupting to family life as economic stress, although not always as easily

discernible. A general review of the information available to us on the cases which come to the workers for attention only serves to confirm this statement.

It is our function, therefore, to endeavour to treat these disrupting factors wherever they occur in order to assist the family or individual to recognize and face such problems, so that they may resolve or minimize them and bring about as nearly as possible a restoration of normal independent life.

Certainly there was a recognized need for such service during the disturbing war years, and now that we are engaged in "winning the peace" the need apparently has not lessened.

While the fiscal year 1946–47 gave us our first full peace-time year, there were still many families who were not united by reason of the fact that there were still occupation forces in Europe and many men continued in the interim forces in Canada. This situation was reflected in the continuing services rendered to families at the request of Federal war-time agencies—the Dependents' Board of Trustees, the Dependents' Allowance Board, and the Directorate of Social Science. As at April, 1946, there were 125 such cases shown as active in the monthly analysis of case-load from the field service, but the number dropped steadily to March, 1947, when only 11 were shown.

There were also the families who were already reunited, as well as those where the father had not been out of the home, and the above figures are in direct contrast to the trend in the total family service case-load for the same period. The number rose steadily from 497 in April, 1946, to a high of 804 in September, and after a temporary decrease in October, possibly due in part to the commencement of the decentralization program and closer review of active cases, the numbers mounted again to a total of 775 as at March 31st, 1947. The average monthly case-load for the Province was 676.

Due to various factors it has not yet been possible to establish a comprehensive statistical system for family service cases. It was possible, however, to do a sample count of the case-load, and the following figures are based on a review of about one-half (441 cases) of the maximum active case-load of 804, and it is believed they would be indicative of the type and incidence of the major problems in the total case-load.

Problem.	Incidence in Total Case-load reviewed. Per Cent.
Parents separated	25
Desertion of father	11
Desertion of mother	6
Death of parent	7
Marital discord	22
Marital discord after war service	10
Maintenance for wife and children	9
Divorce or legal separation	11
Behaviour problems of children	11
Juvenile Court cases	9
Placement with relatives or in foster-home	4
Health	15
Mental health or defect	6
Illegitimacy	9
Financial difficulties (non-support or inadequate income)	21
Inadequate housing	9
Unsatisfactory home conditions	27

It should be pointed out that more than one of these problems could and did occur in many of these cases. For example, one family might be faced with the problems of desertion of the father, behaviour problems in a child, health, and inadequate housing.

The percentages, therefore, indicate the frequency of the individual problems in the case-load reviewed.

The latter classification represented a general grouping of all unsatisfactory factors in the home situation, including those which might lead to need of protection for the child, and those of low living standards, low intelligence, personality difficulties of parents, and poor parent-child relationships, any one or combination of which would result in an unsatisfactory situation in the family group.

It will be seen that in 79 per cent. of the cases financial need was not recorded as a major problem. Even among the 21 per cent. listed under financial difficulties, a great many represented border-line cases where it was only necessary to supplement for emergency needs, such as housekeeping services, or extraordinary needs arising out of health problems. In some cases it was a matter of arranging for contributions from the husband in cases of separation.

BRITISH COLUMBIA YOUTH FOUNDATION.

During the fiscal year under review this foundation was established by Mr. John S. McKercher to aid handicapped young people in British Columbia. Handicapped means mainly in the financial sense, but assistance with the costs of medical and surgical care may be considered. The foundation is also authorized to receive and administer any donations for any particular purpose which will benefit children and youth, but the original donation is specifically for the purpose of assisting underprivileged and handicapped youth to equip themselves physically and mentally to make their own way in life and become good citizens of Canada, and we are gratified to be asked to participate in this plan.

Under an arrangement with the application committee of the foundation all applications to the fund are directed through the Family Services Division for completion by the field service of the necessary inquiries and reports. These are then submitted to the application committee for its consideration.

The services of our workers were not requested until August 1st, 1946, but from then to March 31st, 1947, five reports had been requested. This is a comparatively small number, but represents collateral visits and interviews on the part of the workers in order to obtain the necessary information from schools and references as well as the family and applicant.

There would seem to be a truly great need and scope for such a fund, and no doubt the number of applicants will increase steadily as the fund and its purposes become better known.

FAMILY ALLOWANCES.

By arrangement with the Federal Department of National Health and Welfare all requests for investigations into family circumstances which might affect the payment of family allowance are also directed through the Family Services Division for referral to the field service. Reimbursement is made by the Family Allowances Division on each case where a report is requested. For the fiscal year April 1st, 1946, to March 31st, 1947, a total of 582 requests were received.

GENERAL REMARKS.

At the present time the exigencies and volume of the work do not permit of the close and intensive case-work service which everyone would like to be able to give in the family-problem case, but it is hoped, as time goes on, that it will be possible to render more and more a helpful service to all those families that are not able to meet their own problems within the limits of their own resources and must turn to the case-worker for guidance and counsel. In this way our greatest contribution can be made

in the prevention of the disintegration of families or of the development of more serious problems which endanger family life and are often costly to the state and the individuals concerned.

It is always a pleasant sign to read the closing summary on a statistical card that the problem has been met and resolved, and no further case-work services are required, which must also be a source of satisfaction to the worker for the time and effort expended in helping one more family to a more normal way of life.

J. M. RIDDELL,
Supervisor.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR BOYS.

I submit herewith the forty-third annual report of the Provincial Industrial School for Boys. The statistical tables and departmental reports will be found to contain some interesting facts, to which your attention is respectfully directed.

Sixty-nine boys between the ages of 8 and 18 years were admitted during the year, this being a decrease of 42 from last year. (This, however, should not be taken as an indication that juvenile delinquency is decreasing, as the admissions for the first six months of 1947 are in excess of the total admissions for the year 1946–47.)

Twenty-eight Juvenile Courts are represented this year, as against forty-six during the preceding twelve months. The average age of those committed was 14.5 years. Twenty boys, or 29 per cent. of our population, were between 8 and 13 years of age; thirty-eight boys, or 55.1 per cent., between 14 and 16 years of age; and eleven boys, or 15.9 per cent., were 17 years of age and over.

A breakdown into the Welfare Department districts shows that 20.3 per cent. came from Region 1, Vancouver Island; 52.2 per cent. from Region 2, the Lower Mainland; 8.7 per cent. from Region 3, Okanagan; 7.2 per cent. from Region 4, Kootenay; and 11.6 per cent. from Region 5, Cariboo and north.

Both the daily average attendance and the number of inmate-days show a decrease from the past few years.

1944–45	31,083 inmate-days, daily average,	85 boys.
1945–46	27,144 inmate-days, daily average,	74 boys.
1946–47	19,456 inmate-days, daily average,	53.3 boys.

As in previous years, theft and breaking and entering and stealing appear to be the major delinquency, and were responsible for fifty committals. The balance of nineteen represents a variety of other forms of misdemeanour.

The report of our nurse-matron indicates the extent of our health services and the fact that many of the lads sent to us are below par physically and in need of medical and dental care. This service is provided and every effort made to restore them to normal health.

It will be noted from Mr. Blagburn's report on academic and vocational training that the lack of facilities is a handicap and limits the extent of our effort to provide an adequate training program. We feel that industrial arts and occupational therapy should form the backbone of our training program, as the majority of boys coming under our care will eventually earn their living by manual effort, and our function is to help equip them to become useful, self-supporting citizens. The fact that admissions to and releases from the school take place irregularly throughout the year causes much disruption and interferes with the continuity of instruction. This will be partially overcome when the school is established in modern quarters.

Very satisfactory progress is shown in the report of the social work department and indicates the close co-operation existing between the various agencies concerned. It also gives a brief outline of the service being rendered and procedure followed from the time of a boy's admission to the time of his release or parole. The services given by the psychiatric clinic have proved invaluable to the school and, as occasion permits, will be called upon to a greater extent.

Various recreational activities assume a major place in our school program, each boy having approximately thirty hours per week of supervised play, including physical training, aquatics, group work, and league games. While we have not produced any championship teams, the school has had representative teams in football, lacrosse, basketball, and softball, in which our boys enjoyed a fair share of honours. Weekly moving-picture shows have done much to brighten institutional life and are eagerly anticipated from week to week.

Considerable improvement to the grounds has taken place during the year. With the removal of the old chicken-houses the garden has been extended, and presents a more pleasing landscape. Mr. Munro's report on the garden and greenhouse work shows that the 1946 crop was well worth the effort expended, as well as providing an excellent training feature for the boys.

The most disturbing factor in our year's effort is that of truancy from the school, and while this is confined to approximately the same group, who leave time after time, only to be brought back to the same quarters from which they ran away, it has a most disturbing effect on those who are endeavouring to derive benefit from their training and make good. Our lack of segregation and detention facilities for those difficult to handle and those who will not conform to the honour system places us in an embarrassing position and weakens our training program. It is our hope that the development of the new school may soon be undertaken in order that we may have adequate resources for the treatment of the boys sent to us for training.

Our grateful thanks and appreciation are due to Rev. J. P. Kane, Coquitlam; Mr. John Wilson, Vancouver; the Salvation Army; and the Sapperton Baptist Church for their continued interest in the spiritual welfare of our school population, Catholic and Protestant services being held every Sunday throughout the year and many other services rendered.

I would like to pay tribute to our school staff, who have worked together harmoniously during the year and have displayed genuine interest in the welfare of the boys, and to the many individuals and departments of the Government and other agencies with whom we work for the generous measure of help and co-operation we have enjoyed.

GEORGE ROSS,
Superintendent.

MOVEMENT OF POPULATION, APRIL 1ST, 1946, TO MARCH 31ST, 1947.

Number in school, April 1st, 1946	76	
Number on parole, April 1st, 1946	177	
Number in Oakalla, April 1st, 1946	4	
Number on extended leave, April 1st, 1946	2	
Number away without leave, April 1st, 1946	10	
Number of new commitments during year	69	
		338
Number of boys released	88	
Number on parole, March 31st, 1947	191	
Number in Oakalla, March 31st, 1947	1	
Number absent without leave, March 31st, 1947	2	
		282
Number in school, March 31st, 1947		56

LIST OF BOYS COMMITTED FROM APRIL 1ST, 1946, TO MARCH 31ST, 1947.

No.	Place of Birth.	Parentage.	Residence previous to Admission to School.	
			British Columbia.	Canada.
			Years.	Years.
2295	Bella Coola, B.C.	Indian (both)	Life.	Life.
2296	Cowichan, B.C.	Indian (both)	Life.	Life.
2297	Koksilah, B.C.	Indian (both)	Life.	Life.
2298	Harrison Mills, B.C.	Indian (both)	Life.	Life.
2299	Vancouver, B.C.	Swiss-English	Life.	Life.
2300	Trail, B.C.	Unknown	Life.	Life.
2301	Edmonton, Alta.	Canadian (both)	13	Life.
2302	Ymir, B.C.	Russian (both)	Life.	Life.
2303	Williams Lake, B.C.	Canadian (both)	Life.	Life.
2304	Unknown	Swedish-Irish	1	Life.
2305	Enderby, B.C.	Unknown-Canadian	Life.	Life.
2306	Vancouver, B.C.	Canadian (both)	Life.	Life.
2307	Vancouver, B.C.	Scottish-American	Life.	Life.
2308	Raymond, Alta.	Canadian (both)	Unknown.	Life.
2309	Vancouver, B.C.	English-Swiss	Life.	Life.
2310	New Westminster, B.C.	East Indian (both)	Life.	Life.
2311	Victoria, B.C.	Canadian (both)	Life.	Life.
2312	Lytton, B.C.	Canadian-Danish	Life.	Life.
2313	New Hazelton, B.C.	Indian (both)	Life.	Life.
2314	Nelson, B.C.	Russian (both)	Life.	Life.
2315	Arcola, Sask.	Canadian-American	4	Life.
2316	Vancouver, B.C.	Canadian-American	Life.	Life.
2317	Winnipeg, Man.	Canadian-American	3	Life.
2318	Stoney Creek, B.C.	Indian (both)	Life.	Life.
2319	Fort St. John, B.C.	Canadian (both)	Life.	Life.
2320	Coleman, Alta.	English (both)	6	Life.
2321	Williams Lake, B.C.	Indian (both)	Life.	Life.
2322	Victoria, B.C.	Chinese (both)	Life.	Life.
2323	Vancouver, B.C.	English-Canadian	Life.	Life.
2324	La Fleche, Sask.	Canadian (both)	7	Life.
2325	Nut Mountain, Sask.	Canadian (both)	12	Life.
2326	Hazelton, B.C.	Canadian-Indian	Life.	Life.
2327	Bonnyville, Alta.	English-Canadian	9	Life.
2328	Vancouver, B.C.	Canadian (both)	Life.	Life.
2329	Duncan, B.C.	Chinese (both)	Life.	Life.
2330	North Vancouver, B.C.	Canadian (both)	Life.	Life.
2331	Melfort, Sask.	American-Canadian	10	Life.
2332	New Westminster, B.C.	Unknown	Life.	Life.
2333	Fort William, Ont.	Scottish-Canadian	9	Life.
2334	Powell River, B.C.	Russian-Canadian	Life.	Life.
2335	Brackendale, B.C.	Canadian-English	Life.	Life.
2336	Elk Point, Alta.	American-Canadian	5	Life.
2337	Vancouver, B.C.	Unknown	Life.	Life.
2338	North Vancouver, B.C.	Canadian (both)	Life.	Life.
2339	Prince Rupert, B.C.	Indian (both)	Life.	Life.
2340	Winnipeg, Man.	Canadian (both)	9	Life.
2341	Saskatoon, Sask.	Unknown-Canadian	3	Life.
2342	Calgary, Alta.	Polish-Canadian	7	Life.
2343	Forestdale, B.C.	Indian (both)	Life.	Life.
2344	South Slocan, B.C.	Swedish-Canadian	Life.	Life.
2345	Montreal, Que.	English-Scottish	1	Life.
2346	Swan River, Man.	Austrian (both)	3	Life.
2347	Edmonton, Alta.	Swiss-Unknown	6	Life.
2348	Cereal, Alta.	Canadian-American	4	Life.
2349	Alert Bay, B.C.	Indian (both)	Life.	Life.
2350	Saskatoon, Sask.	American-Irish	4	Life.
2351	Swift Current, Sask.	Canadian-American	9	Life.
2352	Vancouver, B.C.	Canadian (both)	Life.	Life.
2353	Vancouver, B.C.	American-English	Life.	Life.
2354	Brantford, Ont.	Unknown	9	Life.

LIST OF BOYS COMMITTED FROM APRIL 1ST, 1946, TO MARCH 31ST, 1947—*Continued.*

No.	Place of Birth.	Parentage.	Residence previous to Admission to School.	
			British Columbia.	Canada.
			Years.	Years.
2355	Edmonton, Alta.	Polish (both)	1 mo.	Life.
2356	Nelson, B.C.	Unknown	Life.	Life.
2357	Langley Prairie, B.C.	Austrian-Canadian	Life.	Life.
2358	Regina, Sask.	Canadian-American	7	Life.
2359	Kimberley, B.C.	Unknown-Canadian	Life.	Life.
2360	Athabaska, Alta.	American-Canadian	6	Life.
2361	Winnipeg, Man.	Canadian-English	8	Life.
2362	Pincher Creek, Alta.	Canadian (both)	12	Life.
2363	Powell River, B.C.	Irish-French	Life.	Life.

NATIONALITY OF PARENTS.

American-Canadian	3	Indian (both)	10
American-English	1	Irish-French	1
American-Irish	1	Polish (both)	1
Austrian (both)	1	Polish-Canadian	1
Austrian-Canadian	1	Russian (both)	2
Canadian (both)	14	Russian-Canadian	1
Canadian-American	6	Scottish-American	1
Canadian-Danish	1	Scottish-Canadian	1
Canadian-English	2	Swedish-Canadian	1
Canadian-Indian	1	Swedish-Irish	1
Chinese (both)	2	Swiss-English	1
East Indian (both)	1	Swiss-Unknown	1
English (both)	1	Unknown	5
English-Canadian	2	Unknown-Canadian	3
English-Scottish	1		
English-Swiss	1	Total	69

COMPARATIVE STATISTICAL INFORMATION FOR THE YEARS 1944–45, 1945–46, 1946–47.

BIRTHPLACES.

	1944–45.	1945–46.	1946–47.
Alberta	14	15	11
Australia	1	-----	-----
British Columbia	68	62	42
England	2	1	-----
Manitoba	4	6	4
Nova Scotia	1	-----	-----
Ontario	2	3	2
Quebec	1	-----	1
Saskatchewan	10	19	8
United States of America	1	5	-----
Unknown	-----	-----	1
Totals	104	111	69

Charges resulting in Commitment.

	1944–45.	1945–46.	1946–47.
Theft	54	40	27
Attempted theft	-----	2	-----
Breaking and entering	4	3	2
Breaking and entering and stealing	26	38	21
Attempted breaking and entering and stealing	-----	1	-----
Retaining stolen property	-----	4	1
Arson	-----	2	-----
Assault	2	-----	1
Indecent assault	1	-----	2
Indecent exposure	-----	-----	1
Armed robbery	-----	2	-----
Buggery	-----	1	-----
Murder	-----	1	-----
Violation of probation	5	4	-----
Incorrigibility	7	7	7
Infraction of "Railway Act"	-----	-----	1
Infraction of "Liquor Act"	-----	-----	1
Forgery	-----	2	-----
Being intoxicated	1	-----	2
Possessing intoxicant	-----	-----	1
Fraud	2	-----	-----
Attempt to defraud	-----	3	-----
False pretence	-----	1	1
Vagrancy	2	-----	-----
Unlawful escape	-----	-----	1
Totals	104	111	69

Ages of Boys.

	1944–45.	1945–46.	1946–47.
8 years	-----	-----	1
9 years	-----	1	-----
10 years	1	2	1
11 years	4	2	1
12 years	4	11	6
13 years	15	9	11
14 years	17	19	11
15 years	25	30	14
16 years	19	26	13
17 years	17	11	11
18 years	1	-----	-----
Unknown	1	-----	-----
Totals	104	111	69

Length of Sentence.

	1944–45.	1945–46.	1946–47.
Indefinite	100	93	66
Indefinite—not over 2 years	-----	15	3
45 days	1	-----	-----
3 months	1	-----	-----
1 year	-----	1	-----
Not over 1 year	1	1	-----
Not less than 2 years	1	-----	-----
Until 18 years of age	-----	1	-----
Totals	104	111	69

Places of Apprehension.

	1944–45.	1945–46.	1946–47.
Agassiz	3	-----	2
Alert Bay	1	-----	1
Bella Coola	-----	-----	1
Brighouse	3	1	-----
Burnaby	5	3	2
Campbell River	2	1	-----
Castlegar	3	-----	-----
Clinton	1	5	-----
Cloverdale	4	1	1
Courtenay	1	1	-----
Cranbrook	1	1	-----
Creston	-----	1	-----
Dawson Creek	-----	2	1
Duncan	1	5	3
Fernie	-----	1	-----
Fort St. John	-----	2	-----
Greenwood	1	-----	-----
Hammond	-----	1	-----
Haney	7	1	-----
Hazelton	-----	-----	2
Hope	-----	2	-----
Kamloops	3	-----	-----
Kelowna	9	1	-----
Keremeos	-----	-----	1
Kimberley	-----	1	-----
Kootenay, County of	-----	-----	1
Ladysmith	-----	2	1
Langley	1	-----	-----
Lillooet	1	-----	-----
Lytton	-----	1	1
Maple Ridge	-----	1	-----
Merritt	2	-----	-----
Mission	-----	1	-----
Murrayville	-----	1	-----
Nanaimo	-----	1	-----
Natal	1	-----	-----
Nelson	3	3	1
New Westminster	2	8	4

PLACES OF APPREHENSION—*Continued.*

	1944–45.	1945–46.	1946–47.
North Bend	-----	1	-----
North Vancouver	4	1	3
Penticton	2	2	2
Port Alberni	1	2	-----
Port Coquitlam	-----	2	-----
Pouce Coupe	1	-----	-----
Powell River	4	1	1
Prince George	-----	2	2
Prince Rupert	-----	3	1
Princeton	1	1	-----
Queen Charlotte City	-----	1	-----
Quesnel	-----	1	-----
Quinsam	-----	1	-----
Revelstoke	1	-----	1
Rossland	1	-----	-----
Sechelt	-----	1	1
Sidney	-----	1	1
Smithers	-----	1	1
Sooke	1	-----	-----
Squamish	2	-----	-----
Trail	2	3	3
Transferred from Oakalla	-----	1	-----
Vancouver	14	21	21
Vernon	1	-----	1
Victoria	14	14	8
West Summerland	-----	1	-----
West Vancouver	-----	2	-----
Williams Lake	-----	-----	1
Totals	104	111	69

PARENTAL RELATIONSHIPS.

	1944–45.	1945–46.	1946–47.
With both parents living	64	55	25
With both parents dead	-----	1	1
With father living and mother dead	7	2	4
With mother living and father dead	4	7	7
With both parents living but separated	16	22	13
With foster-parents	-----	2	7
With mother dead and father married again	1	2	-----
With father dead and mother married again	6	8	-----
With parents separated and father married again	1	2	1
With parents separated and mother married again	3	10	6
With parents separated and both married again	2	-----	3
With mother dead and father's whereabouts unknown	-----	-----	1
With mother living and father's whereabouts unknown	-----	-----	1
Totals	104	111	69

RELIGION.

	1944–45.	1945–46.	1946–47.
Baptist	3	5	-----
Christian Institute	1	-----	-----
Church of England	24	25	12
Church of God	2	-----	-----
Evangelical	2	-----	-----
Foursquare Gospel	-----	-----	1
Fundamentalist	-----	-----	1
Greek Catholic	1	-----	1
Greek Orthodox	-----	1	-----
Jehovah's Witness	1	-----	-----
Lutheran	-----	2	1
Methodist	1	1	-----
Pentecostal	-----	3	-----
Presbyterian	-----	4	2
Roman Catholic	30	27	17
Russian Orthodox	-----	1	-----
Salvation Army	-----	2	2
Seventh-day Adventist	1	-----	2
Sons of Freedom	2	-----	-----
United	13	17	12
Non-denominational	23	23	18
Totals	104	111	69

HEALTH.

Medical care for the year 1946–47 was as follows:—

Hospitalization—	Number of Cases.	Number of Days.
Appendectomy	2	19
Removal of tonsils and adenoids	4	10
Submucous resection	2	7
Pneumonia	1	7
Threatened appendicitis	1	5
Totals	10	48

Cases treated within the school—	Number of Cases.
Rheumatic fever	1
Petit mal	1
Auricular fibrillation	1
Pleurisy	1
Threatened pleurisy	1
Otitis media	3
Sinusitis	3
Septic throat	4
Impetigo	2
Infected acne	1
Infected finger	1
Bursitis	5
Fractured bone in hand	1
Lacerations requiring sutures	5

Cases treated within the school—*Continued.*	Number of Cases.
Minor injuries	4
Abscess	2
Furuncle	5
Scabies	4
Nits	2
Gastro-intestinal infection	8
Mumps (complicated by orchitis, 2)	6
Chicken-pox	2
Catarrhal conjunctivitis	4
Total	67

We continue to have a complete physical examination on admission and an immunization program which includes Schick testing and inoculation against diphtheria and smallpox. The results of all chest X-rays, urinalyses, and Kahn tests were essentially negative this year.

Specialists were consulted for eighteen boys. Nine of these had glasses prescribed and fitted. One lad was referred to an orthodontist when he had two of his front teeth broken and another had a partial plate fitted.

Although the general condition of boys coming into care has shown definite improvement, neglected eyes, tonsils, and teeth are still prevalent. Dental care consisted of 181 visits to our regular dentists, covering treatment received by eighty-seven boys. Since we doubled our services last year, practically every boy entering the school is seen by a dentist. This is most encouraging and a decided improvement over previous years.

Rationing and scarcity of some provisions still exist, but we have managed, with the co-operation of our cooks, to serve varied, appetizing, and wholesome meals. Vitamized flour and milk are used at all times. Besides these, extra vitamins are supplied during the winter months through the administration of haliver-oil capsules. Though meals are served cafeteria style, we encourage the boys to choose the foods that will give them a well-balanced diet.

We are pleased to report no incidence of serious illness and considerably less hospitalization than in the previous year. It will be noted from the above list of illnesses that there were eight cases of gastro-intestinal infection, six of mumps, and two of chicken-pox. These diseases are all of the infectious type, but fortunately we were able to isolate them adequately and control was brought about before epidemic proportions were reached. This is a remarkably different picture than that in 1940–41. During that year we had two epidemics which necessitated the conversion of one of the dormitories into an isolation unit and the securing of a special nursing staff. Too much emphasis cannot be placed on adequate dormitory and infirmary space. It is an invaluable factor in combating disease which too often is not considered.

Continued progress is being made in our health programme. Credit goes to those who have shown their genuine and unselfish interest in this work. The school's contribution to the health of the boys in its care goes a long way in establishing healthy habits and an awareness of physical needs, which are essential for happy and successful adjustment.

JENNIE M. BITZ, R.N.,
Nurse-Matron.

EXPENDITURE AND *PER CAPITA* COST.

	1944–45.				1945–46.				1946–47.			
Salaries		$41,612.37				$45,994.60				$51,004.30		
Less—												
Rent collected	$733.00				$751.95				$651.94			
Board collected	2,098.77				1,875.04				2,042.57			
Amount received from W.C.B. and D.V.A.	16.95				68.65				783.57			
Unemployment Insurance deductions	15.60				.....				.....			
		2,864.32				2,695.64				3,478.08		
			$38,748.05				$43,298.96				$47,526.22	
(1) Office and school supplies		$1,486.02				$1,462.59				$1,258.13		
Less—												
Amount collected for telephone calls	$69.94				$51.76				$57.31			
Unemployment Insurance deductions	.....				61.26				56.40			
		69.94				113.02				113.71		
			1,416.08				1,349.57				1,144.42	
(2) Travelling and transportation		$6,864.81				$3,190.46					2,655.73	
Less amount collected *re* W.I.T.		40.00				26.50					.....	
			6,824.81				3,163.96					
(3) Purchase of shoes and clothing			4,896.22				3,547.79				2,473.90	
(4) Janitor supplies and maintenance of grounds		$1,291.00					1,591.42				1,217.46	
Less refund from G. H. Wood Co.		10.00					.....				.....	
			1,281.00									
(5) Light, fuel, water			4,519.72				4,447.82				4,538.85	
(6) Furnishings, equipment			2,186.28				1,652.70				848.12	
(7) Provisions		$14,636.95				$15,987.28					14,653.45	
Less—												
Board paid for inmate		135.00				.....					.....	
Amount collected for dinner		.....				15.00					.....	
			14,501.95				15,972.28					
(8) Medical, surgical, dental			2,993.63				3,728.58				2,979.62	
(9) Laundry			1,991.80				1,602.71				1,523.28	
(10) Vocational supplies for various departments			235.47				348.69				561.89	
(11) Incidentals and contingencies		$2,193.25				$1,439.61					1,370.36	
Less—												
Miscellaneous receipts		9.00				504.30					.....	
			2,184.25				935.31					
			$81,779.26				$81,639.79				$81,493.30	
Public Works Department expenditure			3,366.36				2,811.13				4,186.46	
				$85,145.62				$84,450.92				$85,679.76
Decrease in value of stock				.....				.....				18.53
Increase in value of stock				1,366.46				1,068.03				.....
				$83,779.16				$83,382.89				$85,698.29
Cost-of-living bonus				5,596.65				6,185.48			$8,078.16	
Public Works cost-of-living bonus				.....				.....			264.34	
												8,342.50
				$89,375.81				$89,568.37				$94,040.79
Per capita cost—												
General operating expense				$2.70				$3.07				$4.40
Cost-of-living bonus				.18				.23				.43
Total *per capita* cost				$2.88				$3.30				$4.83

EDUCATIONAL.

At the beginning of the September term Mr. Goodland obtained leave of absence to continue his studies at an American university. This necessitated staff changes in our academic department. It was found impossible to obtain the services of another teacher at the opening of school, so the boys were assigned to two divisions until such time as it was possible to engage another teacher. Toward the end of September, Mr. Wicklund joined our staff. Mr. Iveson took over motor mechanics instruction from Mr. Munro. The staff consisted of: Division 1, E. W. Blagburn; Division 2, J. A. Wicklund; Division 3, Mrs. A. L. Arthur; Industrial Arts, J. B. Pattern; Motor Mechanics, J. Iveson.

The school population declined greatly during the summer holidays. Consequently, when school reopened, the classes had a low enrolment. Within a month or so, however, Division 2 had regained full strength. The other divisions were slower in regaining numbers, but a decided increase took place after the New Year. The total enrolment for the fiscal year was as follows: Division 1, 27; Division 2, 40; Division 3, 31; total, 98.

Thirty-six were on the roll at March 31st, 1947. They were distributed as follows: Division 1, 8; Division 2, 17; Division 3, 11; total, 36.

This was a very low number for three divisions. The fluctuation is so great, however, that in a period of a few weeks the enrolment could conceivably be doubled. Furthermore, a low number in a division is desirable in this institution. On the average, we receive the poorest scholars of the public schools. Many are seriously retarded mentally, while even those of normal intelligence are often educationally retarded a period of two or more years. A great deal of individual instruction is thus essential. Especially is this true in the lower grades.

Before much progress can be made, the pupil must have a liking for his work. Many of the lads have a deep-seated aversion to school, due to a number of factors, among which are the following: inability to grasp the work; fear of ridicule, due to being over age for the group; poor family background, etc. This dislike more frequently than not leads to extended periods of truancy, which in turn only aggravate the condition. When the boy arrives here, he finds many others suffering from the same complexes. In time he tends to lose some of his self-consciousness and there are many instances where boys have expressed a desire to continue their academic work even though they are beyond the compulsory school age. During the fiscal year forty-four boys thus attended, out of the total enrolment of ninety-eight.

A greater amount of time was devoted to visual and auditory aids. In respect to the former, educational pictures were shown every second week. As nearly as practical, these pictures were correlated with the subjects being taught. Learning interest was stimulated greatly by these films and retention of lesson content proved much greater. A new radio with phonograph attachment proved a valuable asset. This enabled the classes to listen to regular school broadcasts, as well as to enjoy borrowed recordings. It was surprising and gratifying to find the number of boys who really seemed to appreciate good music.

In correspondence work, mechanical drawing courses proved popular. The majority of boys taking these did not remain here long enough to finish the course, but most of them left with the intention of continuing this work when they arrived home. Dr. Lucas and her staff have been very kind to us, and they have done their utmost to lend the boys a helping hand.

It is obvious that the boys committed to our school would benefit greatly if it were possible to increase the industrial arts department and provide increased opportunities for occupational therapy which would fit them for a useful life after leaving the institution. The inadequate accommodation, which is taxed to capacity, severely

handicaps the work of this department and limits the size and number of classes and the variety of subjects taught.

The population of the institution may be classified under two main headings, school-boys and working-boys, and the average number of hours spent in academic and vocational training is as follows:—

	Hours per Week.
School-boys—	
Academic training	21
Vocational training	6
Working-boys—	
Academic training	6
Vocational training	21

In June, 1946, the School Inspector approved the promotion to Grade IX of four boys of the six enrolled in Grade VIII.

The median intelligence quotient of the school enrolment was 86, as in the previous year.

ERIC W. BLAGBURN,
Acting Teaching Supervisor.

SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT.

There were sixty-nine boys admitted to the Boys' Industrial School during the year ended March 31st, 1947. Supervision was assumed by the agencies as listed below:—

Family Welfare Bureau	5
Indian Agent	10
Victoria probation service	1
Vancouver probation service	16
Saanich probation service	1
Children's Aid Society, Victoria	7
Children's Aid Society, Vancouver	1
Catholic Children's Aid Society	1
Child guidance clinic	1
Direct case	1
Family service	3
Child Welfare Division	4
Social Welfare Branch, Trail	2
Social Welfare Branch, Nelson	1
Social Welfare Branch, Hazelton	1
Social Welfare Branch, Duncan	1
Social Welfare Branch, Dawson Creek	1
Social Welfare Branch, New Westminster	3
Social Welfare Branch, Prince George	1
Social Welfare Branch, Vernon	1
Social Welfare Branch, Penticton	2
Social Welfare Branch, Ladysmith	1
Social Welfare Branch, Surrey	1
Social Welfare Branch, Chilliwack	1
Social Welfare Branch, Powell River	1
Social Welfare Branch, Pender Harbour	1
Total	69

Individual case records were established and planning for the boy's release initiated. In some cases this meant returning the boy to his former home and in other

cases to a foster-home or work placement, depending on circumstances in each particular case. Correspondence was exchanged between the supervising agency and the school, relating the resources in the boy's family, community, and school and the adjustment and progress of the boy in Biscoq. When a suitable plan was formed and the school felt the boy was ready for release, the post-parole plan, together with a record of the boy's adjustment at the school, was submitted to the Superintendent of Child Welfare for approval, and thence to the committing Magistrate for final approval.

Where location made it possible to hold regular conferences with the supervising agency, this was done at regular monthly meetings. The case conference method of interchanging information of the boy's background, his needs, and his wishes is most effective in making a successful plan for his readjustment to his community life.

There were forty boys given complete examination at child guidance clinic. Psychiatric treatment was indicated in five cases, and a total of twenty treatments given to these five boys. As in previous years, we are greatly indebted to the child guidance clinic for the professional skill and services which are available to the Boys' Industrial School. With the fuller use of our psychiatric services, the need has become more apparent for an institution to care for and treat boys with serious maladjustment problems.

The lack of suitable foster-homes is a serious threat to our program. It is most desirable for a boy to be released when he has received the maximum training at this school. There would appear to be a need for two different types of homes—one for boys wanting foster-home placement and one for boys planning for a work placement. These homes could also be observation centres where further work could be done, and also could give the boy a feeling of being free from the institution to which he had been sent for training.

The co-operation of the field service workers and the private agencies is essential in our program at the Boys' Industrial School. This co-operation and assistance has been excellent, and we are indeed grateful for it, as it enables us to provide a more adequate service to the boy, to his family, and to his community.

BRUCE STURROCK,
Social Worker.

TRADES AND VOCATIONAL DEPARTMENTS.

TAILORING.

Work in the tailoring department during the year 1946–47 comprised the following:—

Tailoring: 32 pairs of tweed pants, 153 pairs of denim pants, 36 pairs of shorts, 12 pairs of kitchen-pants.

Miscellaneous: 30 pairs of curtain tie-backs, 15 sheets, 55 tea-towels, 45 suits pressed, 66 pairs of pants pressed, 60 coats pressed, tweed and denim pants mended, mats bound for swimming-tank.

Shoe check was held regularly, and 227 pairs were repaired.

During the year three boys received instruction and training in tailoring.

J. HENDERSON,
Tailor.

GREENHOUSE AND GARDEN.

This department has shown very satisfactory results during the past fiscal year, and, as in previous reports, the attitude of the boys has been very gratifying, especially where co-operation from numbers was necessary to accomplish a particular project.

We were very fortunate late last fall to be able to procure 75 yards of good barnyard manure, and noticeable improvement is to be seen on the 1947 crop of vegetables and also in the flower-garden.

A large number of plants for transplanting, both flower and vegetable, are ready for use this year. The germination of the seed has been excellent.

Our tractor is holding a very prominent place in creating an interest in our work. All boys have an equal chance to operate the machine. Fifteen boys have all become quite proficient in handling it.

The harvest for the fall of 1946 was one of our best so far: 8 tons of potatoes, 3 tons of carrots, 1 ton of cabbage, 1½ tons of onions, 1 ton of parsnips, besides a quantity of head-lettuce, tomatoes, cob-corn, green beans, spinach, Swiss chard, cucumbers, pumpkins, and peppers.

D. W. MUNRO,
Gardener.

RECREATION.

The program during 1946–47 was similar to that of previous years. From May to September football, softball, lacrosse, and swimming appear to be the popular activities. All boys in the school take part in these games, either in junior or senior divisions. Representative teams were picked and games played with teams from Vancouver, New Westminster, and surrounding communities.

During the fall and winter months most of the recreational activity is held indoors, except football, which is popular all year and played when the weather is favourable. A balanced program of training based on the method used by the Pro-Rec is in effect during the fall and winter months. This included a variety of indoor games, gymnastics, and aquatics. Representative basketball and swimming teams compete with outside groups, such as the Y.M.C.A., schools, and church groups. We feel that these contests help in building up good sportsmanship and an appreciation of the fellowship to be had in these groups, with the hope that our lads may attach themselves to one upon their leaving the school.

In recognition of good conduct, all who are eligible are taken weekly to see a senior hockey, basketball, or lacrosse game, and, as occasion permits, trips to points of interest and school picnics are held.

The hobby clubs continue to hold the interest of the majority of our boys, although fluctuation of population is a distinct handicap. It is inevitable that the best boys are the ones who leave early, and club membership is made up largely of those who are still behaviour problems. These groups meet three times weekly and, with the help given by their supervisor, are largely self-governing. Each boy is permitted to "ride his hobby" during the activity period and there is considerable variety—model-building, woodwork, and collections being the most popular. Discussions are held regularly, and occasionally there are social evenings with camp-fire, sing-song, story hour, and refreshments.

The weekly "movie" held each Wednesday evening is an event eagerly looked forward to and greatly appreciated. This is open to all boys in the school, except those who, through misconduct, have lost the privilege.

We feel that good work has been done and encouraging progress has been made during the year.

W. S. SHOGAN,
Supervisor.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

I beg to submit herewith the thirty-third annual report of the Industrial School for Girls for the year ended March 31st, 1947.

May I be permitted to point out that my appointment became effective on March 1st, 1947, which means that I have held my present position for but one month in the year under review. For this reason I feel it would be presumptuous on my part to comment on the year's operations. I trust that at the end of the next fiscal year I shall be in a position to deal with the activities of the school in more detail and be able to make some worth-while comments or suggestions.

In the following pages, however, will be found certain tables and statistics of the year's work, which should be of interest.

WILLA R. BRODERICK,
Acting Superintendent.

EXPENSES AND REVENUE STATEMENT OF SCHOOL, MARCH 31ST, 1947.

Total inmate-days from April 1st, 1946, to March 31st, 1947	7,251	
Per capita cost, one year		$1,736.67
Per capita cost, one day		4.758
Operating expenditure by voucher—		
Salaries		$20,169.99
Cost-of-living bonus		3,610.64
Office and school supplies, etc.—		
Postage, office and school supplies	$161.11	
Telephone and telegraph	179.91	
		341.02
Travelling expenses		1,336.74
Farm operations		305.88
Furnishings, equipment, etc.		693.96
Clothing—		
Clothing	$484.74	
Boots and shoes	115.03	
		599.77
Janitors' supplies		223.29
Fuel, light, and water—		
Fuel	$1,767.15	
Water	331.70	
Light and power	566.41	
		2,665.26
Provisions—		
Groceries	$3,097.18	
Meat	779.74	
Fish	143.41	
		4,020.33
Medical attendance, medical supplies, and dental cost—		
Medical attendance	$493.00	
Medical supplies	182.08	
Surgery	395.00	
Skin specialist	14.00	
Dental cost	351.00	
Eyes examined and glasses provided	45.00	
		1,480.08
Good Conduct Fund		280.85
Incidentals and contingencies		530.29
Total expenditure for year by voucher		$36,258.10
Maintenance and repairs (expended through Public Works Department)		555.81
		$36,813.91
Inventory, March 31st, 1946		952.47
		$37,766.38
Less board	$1,751.70	
Less rent	358.07	
Less credit for sale of garden produce	213.25	
Less inventory, March 31st, 1947	938.62	
		3,261.64
		$34,504.74

POPULATION OF SCHOOL, MARCH 31ST, 1947.

On roll, April 1st, 1946		23
Girls admitted during year April 1st, 1946, to March 31st, 1947		30
		53
Released on parole	33	
Transferred to other institutions	1	
		34
Total in school, March 31st, 1947		19

LIST OF GIRLS ADMITTED FROM APRIL 1ST, 1946, TO MARCH 31ST, 1947.

No.	Place of Birth.	Parentage.	Residence previous to Admission to School.	
			British Columbia.	Canada.
			Years.	Years.
790	Kamloops, B.C.	English-Indian	14	14
791	Vancouver, B.C.	English-American	14	14
792	Lethbridge, Alta.	English-Austrian	14	14
793	Armstrong, B.C.	American (both)	16	16
794	New Westminster, B.C.	Irish (both)	16	16
795	Edmonton, Alta.	Ukrainian (both)	16	16
796	Vancouver, B.C.	English-Irish	16	16
797	Soda Creek, B.C.	Indian (both)	17	17
798	Edmonton, Alta.	Russian (both)	16	16
799	Edmonton, Alta.	French-English	17	17
800	Calgary, Alta.	Swiss-Irish	15	15
801	Winnipeg, Man.	French-Canadian, English	16	16
802	Bremerton, Wash., U.S.A.	American-English	16	16
803	Vancouver, B.C.	Scottish-Irish	14	14
804	Trail, B.C.	Irish (both)	17	17
805	Vancouver, B.C.	Scottish (both)	15	15
806	Unknown	Unknown	13	13
807	Unknown	Unknown	12	12
808	Unknown	Unknown	11	11
809	Crooked River, Sask.	German-Scottish	15	15
810	Benito, Sask.	Russian (both)	15	15
811	Vancouver, B.C.	English (both)	13	13
812	Wilmer, B.C.	Indian (both)	11	11
813	Prince Rupert, B.C.	Indian (both)	16	16
814	Vancouver, B.C.	Norwegian (both)	16	16
815	Victoria, B.C.	English (both)	14	14
816	Moose Jaw, Sask.	American-Canadian	17	17
817	Brantford, Ont.	English-French	17	17
818	Vancouver, B.C.	English (both)	14	14
819	Vancouver, B.C.	Unknown	14	14

NATIONALITY OF PARENTS.

American (both)	1	German-Scottish	1
American-English	1	Irish (both)	2
American-Canadian	1	Indian (both)	3
English (both)	2	Norwegian (both)	1
English-American	1	Russian (both)	2
English-Canadian	1	Scottish-Irish	1
English-Austrian	1	Scottish (both)	1
English-French	1	Swiss-Irish	1
English-Indian	1	Ukrainian (both)	1
English-Irish	1	Unknown (both)	4
French-English	1		—
French-Canadian, English	1	Total	30

WHERE GIRLS WERE BORN.

Alberta	5	Saskatchewan	3
British Columbia	16	United States of America	1
Manitoba	1	Unknown	3
Ontario	1		—
		Total	30

AGES OF GIRLS.

11 years	2	15 years	4
12 years	1	16 years	9
13 years	2	17 years	5
14 years	7		—
		Total	30

PLACES OF APPREHENSION.

Cranbrook	1	Victoria	5
Municipality of Richmond	1	Vernon	2
Oliver	1	Williams Lake	1
Prince Rupert	1		—
Vancouver	18	Total	30

OFFENCES COMMITTED.

Incorrigibility	10	Obtaining goods by false pretences	2
Theft	4	Intoxication	2
Sexual immorality	11		—
Vagrancy	1	Total	30

LENGTH OF SENTENCE.

Sec. 20, J.D.A., 1929	23	Indeterminate	2
"Industrial School for Girls' Act"	5		—
		Total	30

RELIGIOUS STATISTICS.

Baptist	1	Roman Catholic	10
Church of England	3	United Church	9
Greek Catholic	1	Unknown	3
Greek Orthodox	1		—
Presbyterian	2	Total	30

GIRLS AND THEIR PARENTS.

Number who have both parents living	19
Number who have father living, mother dead	1
Number who have mother living, father dead	6
Number whose parents are dead	1
Number whose parents are unknown	2
Number who have mother living, father unknown	1
Total	30

Of the above, the parents of four girls are separated; five parents are divorced; seven girls have stepfathers; three girls have stepmothers; and one girl is adopted.

EDUCATIONAL.

During the period from April 1st, 1946, to March 31st, 1947, school classes continued during the afternoon period. All girls of school age, as well as any others who were interested, attended classes, but only seven were enrolled in elementary correspondence courses. The remainder received individual instruction in the grades suited to their ability.

Following are movements of high school pupils: On roll April 1st, 1946, 1; enrolled during term, 7; released from classes, 4; on roll, March 31st, 1947, 4.

All of these girls were enrolled in partial courses in Government correspondence courses. I should like to express my appreciation for the unfailing helpfulness and understanding shown by Dr. Edith E. Lucas, Miss Anna B. Miller, and their assistant instructors.

Seven girls attended classes in typewriting and shorthand, receiving tuition in these subjects from the clerk in our office.

Instruction in fancy-work and various handicrafts continued, and, as always, each girl, under direction, completed a sweater as part of her wardrobe.

A group interested in Junior Red Cross produced a goodly supply of knitted garments for children, as well as favours for hospital.

Work and training in the various departments of the institution were carried on as before. The sewing-room provided all the wearing-apparel for the girls, as well as household supplies. Mending, repairs, and renovations were attended to in this department.

Kitchen and laundry are always busy places. In the former, girls are directed in the planning, preparation, and cooking of meals, preserving and canning. The laundry provides experience in the use of electric equipment and all types of washing and ironing, from fine starched articles to woollen blankets. General housework is carried on throughout the house, with stress on dining-room management and serving of meals.

Birthday parties, concerts, radio, library, gymnasium, and playing-field provide plenty of pleasurable recreation. This year we have had the continued pleasure of a weekly picture show, which we greatly appreciate.

The garden has provided us with a plentiful supply of fresh vegetables and small fruits, as well as a wealth of flowers. Our surplus of garden produce has been used by Marpole and Allco infirmaries.

AYRA E. PECK,
Assistant Superintendent and School-teacher.

MEDICAL SERVICES DIVISION.

In reporting on the activities of the Division for the year ended March 31st, 1947, some difficulty is encountered due to the fact that the present Director was appointed in November, 1946, to replace the Acting Director, Dr. A. S. Simpson, who was superannuated.

The Director, having been catapulted into the position, took some time to become acquainted with his various associates and the functions of the Division. These functions, simply stated, are: (1) To deal with medical care of social welfare cases in unorganized areas; (2) to assist with the various medical social problems in all regions; and (3) to act as medical adviser to the Deputy Minister of Welfare and the Director of Welfare.

In studying the situation, it became quite apparent that the Division had to become much more active, and stream-lining was the order of the day. The "hold fast" policy caused by the war had to be abandoned and all activities stepped up to fall in line with the energetic policy of the Provincial social services.

As you know, we are responsible for the payment of bills incurred to doctors, druggists, appliance houses, and municipalities. All outstanding bills were cleared, and we instituted the principle that accounts received in our office by the tenth of the month must be paid by the end of that month. We introduced billing methods which took into consideration simplicity and thoroughness, but we are constantly studying the situation with a view to improvement. We believe there has been a noticeable good result. Accounts are coming in more promptly.

To bring about uniformity in unorganized areas, we contemplate substituting the "fee for service rendered" in areas now on a "retainer fee" basis. We note with pleasure the additional two municipalities that have seen fit to provide medical services for their welfare cases on the *per capita* basis, namely, Delta and Richmond. Much credit is due to the regional administrator in District 2, and he is to be congratulated on the results of his efforts. It is hoped that all districts will in the near future have similar coverage.

Several conferences were held with the executive of the British Columbia Pharmaceutical Association, and this resulted in a Province-wide formulary with uniformity of price. The new formulary is being brought up to date in collaboration with the British Columbia Medical Association and is in the process of being printed. It should be available in the near future. This should prove most beneficial to the welfare cases and all Governmental bodies. The Division wishes to record its appreciation of the excellent co-operation and courtesy extended by the Price and Formulary Committee of the British Columbia Pharmaceutical Association and the Formulary Committee of the British Columbia Medical Association.

Our pharmacy has continued in its good work of supplying prescribed medicines to social assistance cases in the City of Vancouver, reviewing all submitted drug accounts, furnishing necessary medicines to certain Provincial institutions, and supplying of medicines and appliances to a limited number of cases throughout the Province. We believe its functions should be reviewed in the near future to study the possibilities of increasing its usefulness to Government institutions throughout the Province.

Realizing the need for a consultation service to assist doctors throughout the Province catering to cases in unorganized areas and in the investigation of mothers' allowance applicants due to the disability of the breadwinner, we were indeed fortunate to arrange this service through the medical staff of the Vancouver General Hospital.

With reference to mothers' allowance cases, the Division is most anxious to be of maximum assistance to the ailing breadwinner and the Director of Welfare. With this in view we are constantly reviewing active cases.

The relationship with the British Columbia Cancer Institute has been outstandingly good. They have been most co-operative and prompt in all arrangements. One must know the scarcity of boarding-home and nursing-home beds in Vancouver to appreciate their efforts. Not one of our cases for diagnosis or treatment has been delayed.

The Director has arranged to visit Chilliwack, Kamloops, Vernon, Penticton, and Kelowna, and hold meetings with the various medical men in the above localities, at which time our policy will be outlined to them and matters concerning welfare cases will be discussed in detail. It is our hope and plan to visit the majority of the districts annually and hold similar meetings. Furthermore, it is our intention at the same time to visit the workers in the field and attempt to assist them, on the spot, with their medical social problems.

The Director has been requested to sit in at the Provincial social service refresher meetings, in which much good is accomplished in round-table conference discussions.

The Division has been requested to survey the medical services available to welfare cases throughout the Province with the object of bringing about uniformity and assuring as complete a coverage as possible. This will be done as expeditiously as circumstances will permit.

Since assuming my present office, arrangements have been made for presenting in the next annual report detailed statistics which should be both comprehensive and informative. The following comparative expenditures for the past two years will, however, indicate the trend in this Division.

	Fiscal Year 1945–46.	Fiscal Year 1946–47.
Hospital	$2,982.40	$2,876.33
Doctors' accounts	43,968.89	56,611.76
Prescriptions	40,847.40	65,690.53
Dental	3,293.00	6,457.75
Optical	1,345.06	1,821.06
Transportation	3,208.22	4,752.15
M.D. agreements	49,444.56	47,764.10
Dispensary	1,180.36	.....
Totals	$146,269.89	$185,973.68

J. C. Moscovich, M.D.,
Director, Medical Services Division.

MOTHERS' ALLOWANCES.

This form of social assistance reached an all-time high of 1,778 cases in May, 1940, since which time there has been a steady decrease in case-load and expenditure, as shown in the following tables:—

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
1946–47	488,866.74	—10,034.98	—2.02

The following is the case-load for the month of March during the past seven years:—

March, 1941	1,697	March, 1945	940
„ 1942	1,552	„ 1946	905
„ 1943	1,194	„ 1947	863
„ 1944	1,080		

During the year 202 cases were cancelled and for the following reasons:—

Reason for Cancellation.	Number of Cases.
Mother earning in excess	37
Mother remarried	33
Only child 18 years of age	24
Only child under 18 years left school	17
Older children maintaining	14
Husband not totally disabled	12
Only child under 16 years left school	12
Only child 16 years of age	10
Personal property in excess	9
Unearned income in excess	9
Only child removed	8
Left British Columbia	4
Mother in hospital indefinitely	4
Section 6	4
Mother deceased	2
Husband released from penitentiary	2
Whereabouts unknown	1
Total	202

The following table shows the length of time on allowance of the above-noted 202 cancelled cases:—

Years	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Cases	31	15	24	13	15	13	14	12	12	13	8	3	5	5	6	2	5	3	1	2

Total, 202. Average length of time on allowance, 6.108 years.

During the year 199 new applications and reapplications were received.

As at April 1st, 1946, there were on hand ten applications on which a decision had not been made. A total of 209 cases was dealt with during the year and disposed of as follows:—

Allowances granted	150
Allowances refused	53
Applications held over	6
Total	209

The reasons for refusal are as follows:—

Reasons for Refusal.	Cases.
Personal property in excess	10
Mother's earnings in excess	8
Social allowance preferable form of assistance	6
Application withdrawn	6
Section 6 of Act	4
Non-resident	3
Not legally married	2
Husband not totally disabled	2
Husband's disability arose outside British Columbia	2
Not divorced two years	2
Deserted outside British Columbia	2
Older children maintaining	2
Unearned income in excess	2
Not British subject	1
Not legally separated	1
Total	53

The housing situation is one which undoubtedly gives concern, and in order to ascertain how the mothers were meeting this difficulty, a review of the cases active in March, 1947, discloses that:—

Mothers paying rent	409
Mothers living rent free	34
Mothers owning their homes free of encumbrances	320
Mothers owning their homes but against which are encumbrances	100
Total	863

There were no changes in the "Mothers' Allowances Act" or regulations.

The Mothers' Allowances Advisory Board held two meetings during the year, and various subjects were discussed. The personnel of the Board remained unchanged and under the chairmanship of Mrs. F. W. Smelts, Vancouver. The members of the Board take a keen interest in this Act, and their recommendations and suggestions are of value in its administration.

Certain statistics are given on the case-load for the month of March, 1947, and it will be seen that one-child cases comprise 38.7 per cent. and two-child cases 32.9 per cent. of the whole. Total cases for the month number 863, and total disability of the husband was the reason for granting the allowance to 203 mothers. Tuberculosis was again the main cause of disability and accounts for 71 or 34.97 per cent. of the "total disability" cases. "T.B. benefits" from social allowance funds are payable to such cases and supplement the mothers' allowance.

Extremely heavy case-loads precluded visiting as often as we would wish, but the relationship between the mothers and our field staff is generally good. I am satisfied that the funds expended under this Act are used for the purpose for which they are provided.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Fiscal Year April 1st, 1946, to March 31st, 1947.

Advance received from Minister of Finance	$489,100.00
Bank interest	8.54

Month.	Amount of Advance.	Amount of Interest.	
March		$0.62	
April	$42,000.00	.95	
May	40,750.00	1.19	
June	42,000.00	.35	
July	41,000.00	.59	
August	41,000.00	.82	
September	41,000.00	.64	
October	40,750.00	.79	
November	40,350.00	.65	
December	39,500.00	1.16	
January	40,500.00	.22	
February	40,250.00	.56	
March	40,000.00		
	$489,100.00	$8.54	$489,108.54

Allowances paid as follows:—

Month.	Amount of Allowances.	
April	$41,543.47	
May	41,450.15	
June	41,332.37	
July	40,943.81	
August	40,976.58	
September	40,852.74	
October	40,818.20	
November	40,161.90	
December	40,234.39	
January	40,237.28	
February	40,061.23	
March	40,254.62	
		488,866.74
Balance to be accounted for		$241.80

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, 1947, 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, 1946, to March 31st, 1947, inclusive		$489,508.74
Less refunds paid by—		
MA-10777 in April, cheque No. 381328	$80.00	
MA-10937 in August, cheque No. 385030	34.50	
MA-10961 in August, cheque No. 385047	42.50	
MA-11138 in August, cheque No. 385160	42.50	
MA-10209 in September, cheque No. 384779	62.50	
MA-10209 in September, cheque No. 385686	62.50	
MA-10855 in September, cheque No. 385885	45.00	
MA-9985 in October, cheque No. 386527	45.00	
MA-9026 in November, cheque No. 387251	37.50	
MA-11105 in November, cheque No. 387801	52.50	
MA-9821 in December, cheque No. 388257	57.50	
MA-7197 in February, cheque No. 389703	35.00	
MA-10864 in February, cheque No. 390257	45.00	
		642.00
		$488,866.74

CAUSE OF DEATH.

The following summary gives the causes of death of the husbands in cases of widows in receipt of assistance at March 31st, 1947:—

Infectious and parasitic diseases—		
Influenza	2	
Septicæmia	2	
Spinal meningitis	8	
Tuberculosis	40	
Typhoid	3	
	—	55
Cancer and other tumours—		
Cancer	54	
Other tumours	1	
	—	55
Rheumatic and other general diseases—		
Arthritis	1	
Diabetes	8	
Muscular atrophy	2	
	—	11
Diseases of the blood, etc.—		
Anæmia	2	
Hodgkin's disease	3	
Leukæmia	1	
	—	6
Chronic poisons and intoxicants—Toxemia		2
Diseases of nervous system and organs of special senses—		
Abscess of brain	3	
Brain tumour	6	
Cerebral hæmorrhage	35	
Cerebral thrombosis	5	
Encephalitis	1	
Epileptic seizure	2	
General paresis	2	
Huntington's chorea	1	
Insanity	13	
Neurasthenia	1	
Neuritis	1	
Paralysis agitans	1	
Paralysis	3	
Parkinson's disease	....	
Thrombosis undefined	3	
	—	77
Diseases of circulatory system—		
Angina pectoris	4	
Aortic aneurism	1	
Arteriosclerosis	7	
Coronary thrombosis and sclerosis	21	
Coronary occlusion	12	
Embolism	6	
Endocarditis	12	
Heart (ill-defined)	82	
Hypertension	5	
	—	150
Diseases of the glands of internal secretion—Parathyroid		1
Diseases of respiratory system—		
Asthma	2	
Bronchiectasis	2	
Œdema glottis	1	
Œdema lungs	3	
Pleurisy	2	
Pneumonia	38	
Silicosis	1	
	—	49
Diseases of digestive system—		
Appendicitis	7	
Colitis	1	
Gastroduodenal ulcer	9	
Intestinal intoxication	1	
Gall-bladder	1	
Liver disease	2	
Pancreatitis	1	
Peritonitis	9	
	—	31
Diseases of genito-urinary system—		
Chronic nephritis	12	
Kidney trouble	4	
Uræmia	6	
	—	22
Violent or accidental deaths—		
Accidents	43	
Burns	1	
Drowning	18	
Post-operative shock	1	
Suicide	9	
	—	72
Ill-defined causes—		
Asphyxia	1	
General debility	2	
Osteomyelitis	2	
Poison	1	
Rupture	2	
Sclerosis	1	
Unknown	2	
Suffocation	1	
	—	12
Total		543

CAUSE OF DISABILITY.

The causes of total disability of husbands in cases coming under the classification of "husbands totally disabled" at March 31st, 1947:—

Infectious and parasitic diseases—		
Poliomyelitis	3	
Tuberculosis	71	
	—	74
Cancer and other tumours—		
Cancer	2	
Other tumours	....	
	—	2
Rheumatic and other general diseases—		
Arthritis	16	
Diabetes	1	
Rheumatism	2	
	—	19
Diseases of the blood, etc.—Anæmia		1
Diseases of nervous system and organs of special senses—		
Auricular fibrillation	1	
Brain tumour	1	
Cerebral hæmorrhage	1	
Cerebral thrombosis	3	
Disseminated sclerosis	3	
Eczema	1	
Encephalitis	2	
Glaucoma	1	
Insane	5	
Kyphosis of spine	1	
Muscular degeneration	1	
Neurasthenia	2	
Neuritis	1	
Paralysis	2	
Paralysis agitans	1	
Parkinson's disease	1	
Psychosis	1	
Psychoneurosis	3	
	—	31
Diseases of circulatory system—		
Angina pectoris	....	
Arteriosclerosis	3	
Coronary sclerosis and thrombosis	6	
Coronary occlusion	1	
Heart (ill-defined)	19	
Hypertension	5	
Pericarditis	1	
Tachycardiac	1	
	—	36
Diseases of respiratory system—		
Asthma	5	
Silicosis	1	
	—	6
Diseases of digestive system—		
Colitis	1	
Gastroduodenal ulcer	7	
	—	8
Diseases of genito-urinary system—		
Epididymitis	1	
Nephritis	2	
Prostatitis	1	
	—	4
Injuries or accidents—		
Accidents	2	
Dislocated hip	1	
	—	3
Ill-defined causes—		
Blindness	6	
General debility	6	
Others	1	
Rupture	1	
Sclerosis	3	
Senility	2	
	—	19
Total		203

STATUS AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN OF FAMILIES IN RECEIPT OF ASSISTANCE IN MARCH, 1947.

	Number of Children.										
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	Total.
Widows	220	165	104	34	10	7	3	.....	.....	.....	543
Incapacitated husbands	73	70	24	20	9	3	2	1	.....	1	203
Deserted	10	18	5	3	4	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	41
Divorced	8	9	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20
Unmarried	3	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Insane	7	6	6	3	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	24
Penitentiary	6	5	3	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16
Foster-mothers	7	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
Judicial separation	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1
Totals	334	277	145	61	26	11	6	1	1	1	863

Number of individuals benefited—

Mothers	863
Husbands	203
Children	1,832
Total	2,898

C. W. Lundy,
Director of Welfare.

OLD-AGE PENSION BOARD.

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY.

This year marks the twentieth anniversary of the coming into existence of old-age pensions in British Columbia. It is fitting, therefore, that in this report we should glance backward and recall briefly the events of twenty years ago.

On March 26th, 1926, the Federal Government had sponsored an Old-age Pensions Bill which passed the House of Commons on May 28th but was later defeated in the Senate. In the following February, however, an identical Bill was introduced. This time it passed both Houses and was granted Royal Assent on March 31st, 1927.

In British Columbia the Provincial Government had been keeping in close touch with the progress of old-age pension legislation at Ottawa, and in anticipation of the passage of the Federal Act the Honourable John Oliver, Premier of the Province, on January 19th, 1927, introduced a Bill to give the Provincial Government authority to enter into an agreement with the Federal Government for a joint scheme of old-age pensions as soon as the latter had passed the necessary Federal legislation. The Provincial Act came into force on March 7th, 1927, but, due to the necessity of setting up administrative machinery, the first applications could not be received until September 1st of that year. By its action British Columbia thus became the first Province to grant old-age pensions in Canada. It was followed afterwards by Saskatchewan on May 1st, 1928; Manitoba on September 1st, 1928; Northwest Territories on January 25th, 1929; Alberta on August 1st, 1929; Ontario on November 1st, 1929; Prince Edward Island on July 1st, 1933; Nova Scotia on March 1st, 1934, and Quebec on August 1st, 1936. The Yukon Territory still does not pay pensions.

The administration was put in charge of the Workmen's Compensation Board. It began with a staff of four employees. On April 1st, 1943, the administration was transferred from the Workmen's Compensation Board to a newly appointed Old-age Pension Board of three members. At the close of the year 1946–47 there was a staff of forty-five employees.

It is interesting to note that pensioner No. 1, the recipient of the first old-age pension cheque in Canada, died on February 27th, 1938, at the ripe old age of 85 years. He was born in the United States on May 17th, 1852, and came to British Columbia in 1896.

Pensioner No. 2 died on June 1st, 1938, at the age of 83 years. He was born in the Province of Quebec and came to British Columbia in 1922.

Pensioner No. 3 is still living and still in receipt of pension at age 93. He was born in Ireland on March 26th, 1854, came to Canada in 1903 and British Columbia in 1906.

Nos. 4 to 77 are all deceased. No. 78, a single lady, is still living, at 91 years of age. She was born at Broadlands, Quebec, in 1856, and came to British Columbia in 1916.

Nos. 3 and 78 above mentioned are the only survivors of the first 100 to receive pension, and there are only 17 additional still living of the first 1,000.

There are 146 persons in receipt of pension who are 90 years of age or over. Of these, two are 102, one is 101, one is 100, two are 99, five are 98, and one is 97 years old.

Up to the end of the year under review the cumulative total of applications received by the Board was 39,231 and the cumulative total of pensions granted was 35,360.

As the various amendments that have been made to the Act and regulations during the past twenty years have been fully outlined in the reports of the three years starting with 1943–44, we shall not repeat by dwelling upon them here.

GENERAL.

In the fiscal year 1946–47 all previous records were broken. Counting both blind and old age, there were 3,023 new applications received, compared with 2,770 the year before, and the number of pensions granted was 2,788, compared with 2,519 the year before. As at March 31st, 1947, there were 18,295 old-age and blind pensioners on the pay-roll, compared with 16,977 at March 31st, 1946, showing an increase of 7.76 per cent. The total expenditure on pensions and cost-of-living bonuses for both old-age and blind pensioners amounted to $6,469,235.34, compared with $5,738,805.34 for the previous year, showing an increase of 12.73 per cent. This sharp increase in expenditure was due to the large increase in the number of new pensions granted and the increase from $5 a month to $10 in the cost-of-living bonus paid from January 1st, 1947, to March 31st, 1947.

The average number of new applications received per month is now between 250 and 300. In March, the last month of the fiscal year, the actual number received was 333. The average number now handled per working-day is 12 plus.

The total cost of pensions proper (as distinct from bonuses) paid during the year was in excess of $5,100,000, and of this the Province itself paid 25 per cent., or more than $1,275,000. In addition to this, the Province paid approximately $1,240,000 in cost-of-living bonuses for pensioners and $81,275 for administration. Altogether, therefore, the total cost to the Province involved in providing for its pensioners was well over $2,500,000.

There were 1,428 deaths among British Columbia pensioners, including both old age and blind, during the year, as compared with 1,299 the year before. The number of estates against which claims were made was 124, and the amount collected was $76,784.56.

THE ACT AND REGULATIONS.

There were no changes in either the Act or the regulations during the year, but a meeting of the Interprovincial Old-age Pensions Board was held in Ottawa in November, 1946, at which British Columbia was represented by the Honourable George S. Pearson, Minister of Health and Welfare, and the Chairman of the Board, and at this meeting numerous recommendations for changes in the regulations were made, which it is anticipated will be put into effect shortly.

COST-OF-LIVING BONUS.

Since April 1st, 1942, the Provincial Government had been paying a cost-of-living bonus of $5 a month to all old-age and blind pensioners whose pensions were granted in this Province. At the 1947 session of the Legislature, however, this bonus was increased to $10 a month, and the increase was made payable retroactively to January 1st, 1947.

RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS.

Like British Columbia, Alberta also had commenced to pay a cost-of-living bonus to its pensioners in April, 1942, and the two Provinces had entered into a reciprocal agreement whereby each Province would pay the 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 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 paid a bonus of only $3 a month, however, pensioners moving from that Province to British Columbia received only that amount, whereas British Columbia pensioners moving to Saskatchewan were paid a $5 bonus there, which, of course, was charged back to British Columbia.

As already stated elsewhere, the British Columbia bonus was increased from $5 to $10 a month at the last session of the Legislature. As a result, in the month of March negotiations were commenced with Alberta and Saskatchewan for revisions in the reciprocal agreements whereby those Provinces undertook to pay on our behalf the increased bonus to British Columbia pensioners living in their territory. The revision of the agreement with Alberta was effected on March 11th, but the negotiations with Saskatchewan were still in progress when the fiscal year ended on March 31st.

SOCIAL SERVICE.

Changes in population patterns and trends in relation to money expended for pensions may be reduced to significant figures. When we look at the more social aspects of our work with the older group, it is much more difficult to pin down our findings. Here we come face to face with living individuals, each with his own past experience, his own temperament, his own needs and desires. His personal usefulness and happiness have no relation to statistics of the aged or even to his own chronological age. They are, nevertheless, a measure of the effectiveness of the old-age pension as a means of helping older people live a satisfying life.

In this Province we have accepted the principle that economic security is not enough. Other securities are essential to the "good life." As tangible evidence of our effort to bring these within reach of our older citizens, we point to the following developments:—

(1) The setting-up of a Social Service Division as a part of the old-age pensions administration.
(2) The use of a field staff of qualified social workers.
(3) Provision of medical services, including hospitalization.
(4) Plans for gradual establishment of adequate Provincial institutions, varying in type to meet the requirements of our aging population, and encouragement to municipalities concerned with the need of suitable accommodation for their old folk.

Social Service Division.

The Social Service Division of the Old-age Pension Board was set up in April, 1943, when the administration of old-age pensions was brought into close relationship with other social services in the Province. One of the purposes of the Division is to help interpret the wider implications of the Act to the clerical staff handling business details in the head office and to the public, whether clients or interested citizens, as it is felt that such understanding is an important factor in the development of a more individualized service to the aged.

The Division functions first as an information and referral centre. Innumerable inquiries come to the intake office and over the telephone. Since it is only by persistent interpretation that we may hope to clear away a long-standing misapprehension in relation to old-age pensions, one feels that this service has more significance than might be apparent at first glance.

The intake office is a focal point in our social work, largely because of skilful personal interviews in which troublesome details are cleared. During the past twelve months 2,380 persons were interviewed by the intake worker. In addition, more than 100 from outside points were referred to the supervisor.

Reference has been made to a field staff of social workers. It should be remembered, however, that, because of the requirements of the Act and the large number of cases, contact with the 12,000 pensioners outside the City of Vancouver cannot be confined to our district social workers. Unlike members of the field staff, who meet their clients face to face, the clerical workers in the Old-age Pension Board office meet

the old folk through the daily mail. In addition to the large volume of ordinary correspondence, more than 300 personal letters from pensioners or their friends must be answered every month. Writing letters to old persons presents unusual problems! We have found that good relationships between pensioners and field workers or the Board may be strengthened—or weakened—by the written, as well as the personal, interview.

An effort to meet this situation is being made in two ways:—

(1) At the beginning of employment, members of the clerical staff spend some time with the Supervisor of Social Service, when the background and social aspect of their work is discussed.

(2) Information with regard to the pensioner's personality and general situation, included with the annual field service report required by the Act, serves as a guide to the clerks responsible for correspondence. In some instances it indicates referral of the communication to the Social Service Division for reply. In others it makes it possible for the Board to have a more complete picture on which to base a decision on a particular problem.

The clerical staff welcomes this social information and is learning to use it effectively.

Field Staff.

Members of the field staff of the Social Welfare Branch are the representatives of the Old-age Pension Board throughout the Province, and a large part of their time must therefore be given to work with the aged. The use of this field staff, a large group of Provincial social workers handling all categories of social assistance, is the concrete expression of the idea that economic security is the basis, but by no means the whole, of our service to old persons. In looking to more adequate provision for their needs, certain general characteristics of senescence must be taken into account. One of the most important of these is increasing inability to understand written instructions and explanations and to carry out undertakings involving some degree of concentrated effort. Here the personal interpretation of the worker is invaluable. Then, too, the social worker is understanding of the varied manifestations of emotional needs and resources for meeting them. His job is an exacting one requiring, on the one hand, the procuring and recording of accurate and detailed financial information in accordance with the provisions of the Act and, on the other, a recognition of the equally important social factors that go to make up the pensioner's total situation. The present policy of including as complete as possible social information in first investigation reports and adding from time to time on a selective basis is proving satisfactory.

In October, 1946, a significant change took place in the district set-up of the Provincial Welfare Department. A plan of decentralization, giving more responsibility and authority to local offices, was put into effect. (Specific reference to this development will be found elsewhere in the report of the Social Welfare Branch.) This move should bring our work with the aged more closely into line with other case-work services. Workers will have guidance not only in their more direct work with pensioners, but in the planning and organizing of it, which is so essential because of the increasingly heavy case-load in this field. The whole procedure in completing an application may, it is hoped, be carried out with greater dispatch. Emergencies, constantly arising among the aged, can be more promptly dealt with. Shared responsibility should mean that services to old-age pensioners will develop on a sounder basis.

Medical Services.

One of the commonest and perhaps the most disturbing of the many fears which beset later life is that of illness. The importance of the medical program cannot be overrated as a factor in developing emotional security. The extent of the health problem in the older group is indicated in some measure by a sampling of 100 cases recently added to our old-age pension rolls. Of this group, only 25 were (presumably) free from ailments and described their health as "good." In 46 cases there were complaints of general debility with reference to one or another particular ailment—frequently, no doubt, a self-diagnosis. The remaining 29 were so ill as to be largely incapacitated and under medical treatment for a condition of a serious nature.

Findings obtained in this way lack the validity assured by a more scientific approach. However, they suggest various possibilities which, it would seem, have a bearing on the well-being of the pensioners, particularly so when one realizes that we are speaking of the "younger" members of the pension family for whom we are only now commencing to take responsibility. The figures cited may perhaps indicate a preoccupation with health—workers tell us that old people almost always want to talk about their health. This in turn may suggest lack of other interest. Such figures could also mean that because of limited finances these older folk, many of whom have been unemployed for a considerable period before receiving old-age pension, have lacked medical advice, with the inevitable result. There can be no doubt but what poor housing and insufficient nourishment are also factors. One may perhaps assume that such a situation is to some extent a reflection of the fact that medical science in general has, to date, been largely concerned with diseases of the earlier years of life. In view of the increasingly large proportion of older persons in our population, it would seem that more study must now be given to geriatrics (the branch of medicine dealing with disease in aged individuals).

There is ample evidence that the medical services plan for persons in receipt of social assistance in effect in British Columbia since 1943 has meant a great deal to the recipients of old-age pension. Difficulties still to be solved include the following: The unwillingness of many physicians to serve under the plan; gaps in the program, particularly in relation to special services; lack of uniformity among municipalities; complication in procedure for old persons living in isolated places; and the forgetfulness and general inability of the aged group to grasp written instructions.

Regardless of how we look at the picture of the health situation in later years, we know that it is economically and socially unsound for such a large proportion of our adult population to be "below par." A medical program offering complete coverage, with provisions satisfactory to medical practitioners as well as old persons, is at least one part of the answer.

To-day's social thinking, with its emphasis upon the individual, is for the most part away from the large institution. To the social worker it is the last resort, and it is hoped that as governments and communities become more aware of the social needs of the aged, the development of adequate programs may decrease, or at least delay, admissions to public institutions. At the same time experience has shown us that there can be no real sense of security, either for the pensioner or those persons interested in his welfare, without adequate provision for care when either physical or mental deterioration makes it impossible for him to live by himself or with relatives. A discussion of needs in this connection would involve a wide range of plans from foster-homes to congregate institutions for chronic cases.

Development of Welfare Institutions.

During the past year there has been evidence of a greater interest in the welfare of these senior citizens in several communities. New "homes" for old people have

been opened in the Cities of Nelson and Prince Rupert, and New Westminster has a housing project for pensioners under way. (Information in this connection will be found in the report of the Administration of the "Welfare Institutions Licensing Act.") The interest and leadership of our district social workers has no doubt played a part in these developments.

During the year consultative service was given in 1,100 cases referred to the Social Service Division from the field or from members of the clerical staff in the Old-age Pension Board office. All new appointees to the field staff were given periods of instruction in the Divisional office, and material of an explanatory nature was sent out. In looking to the year ahead, it is hoped that, as a result of decentralization, the Supervisor of Social Service may be able to function more adequately as a liaison between the field service and the Branch office, and to work more effectively toward the co-ordination and development of services for the aged on a Provincial level.

Present eligibility requirements, along with recorded social facts, bring within reach a volume of detailed information in relation to the over-seventy group, which should be valuable from a research point of view. Social workers have a responsibility to contribute steadily from the understanding and skill derived from experience, in this or any other field, to help the community in its efforts to meet the fundamental needs of its citizens.

This report would not be complete without grateful acknowledgment of the help received from social agencies, churches, and other organizations interested in the welfare of our senior citizens. Among these are: Alexandra Neighbourhood House, Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Canadian Ladies' Golf Union, Community Chest and Council of Greater Vancouver (Committee on the Care of the Aged), Family Welfare Bureau, Gordon House Community Centre, Social Service Department of the Vancouver General Hospital, Social Service Department of the British Columbia Cancer Institute, Soroptimist Clubs, Travellers' Aid, Victorian Order of Nurses, Young Women's Christian Association, and several broadcasting stations which have contributed largely toward Christmas cheer for the old folk. It is hoped that increasing awareness of the particular needs of our older citizens may result in further significant developments on their behalf.

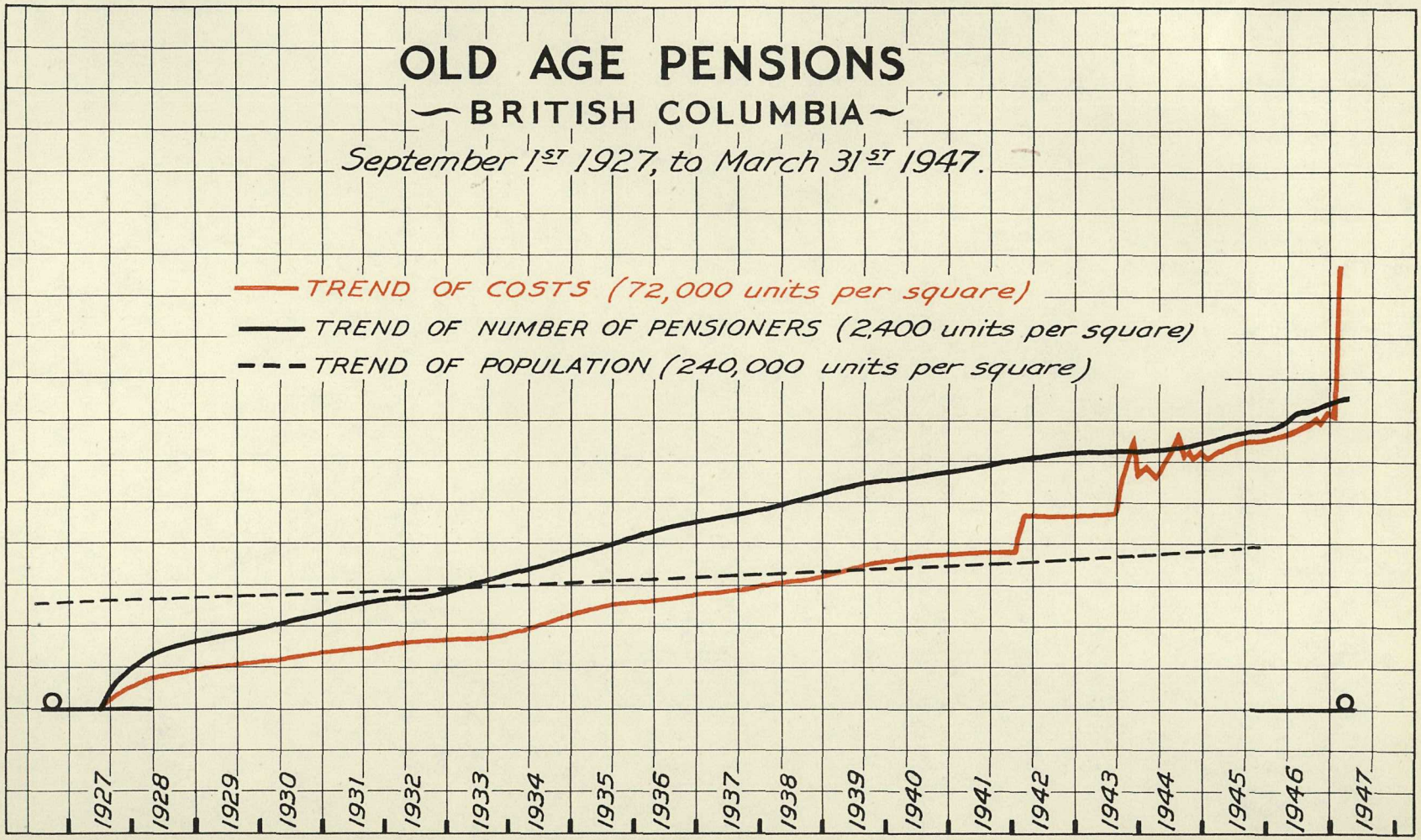
GRAPHIC PRESENTATION COVERING TWENTY-YEAR PERIOD.

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 be compared one with another only 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.


OLD AGE PENSIONS
BRITISH COLUMBIA
September 1st 1927, to March 31st 1947.
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
1947

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 into the early part of 1944, shows a rate of increase in the number of pensioners less than in any former period. However, early in 1944 it is noticed that a sharp rise began in this rate of increase, became steeper toward the end of that year, and has continued through the following years.

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, it 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 three years is normal considering the increase in the number of pensioners, except at one point. At the end of March, 1947, an additional cost-of-living bonus was added to the bonus of $5 which previously had been granted in April, 1942, by the Provincial Government. The payment was made retroactive to the 1st of January, and the total amount of payments made to pensioners at that time results in a very steep rise in the graph of cost just at the end of the fiscal year. The graph will, of course, level out at some lower point.

GRAPHIC PRESENTATION COVERING YEAR 1946–47.

On the following page is a column graph showing the highlights of the year's activities, the details of which may be obtained by comparing the various columns. These indicate the number of new applications received each month, the number of applicants who were granted pension, the numbers who had previously been unable to qualify for pension but have now become eligible, the grand total added to the pay-roll. The difference between columns 2 and 3 is made up by the number of pensioners who migrated to British Columbia from other Provinces and are in receipt of pensions from these Provinces but are now under the administration of the British Columbia Board.

In examining either the profile of the year's activities or the activities of the individual months, one finds approximately the following ratios:—

(1) The number of deceased pensioners is approximately equal to half the number of new applications.

(2) The number of applications refused amounts to approximately one-tenth of the new applications received.

(3) The number of newly granted pensions and those previously suspended but now reinstated are together about equal to the number of all the new applications received.

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31ST, 1947.

OLD-AGE PENSIONS.

TABLE 1.—DISPOSITION OF APPLICATIONS.

	Current Year.	Total to March 31st, 1947.
Number of new applications received	2,937	39,231
Number of new applications granted	2,739*	35,360
Number of new applications not granted	322*	----------

* Includes some held over from previous year.

TABLE 2.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Number of B.C. pensioners returned to B.C.	111
Number of new "other Province" pensioners transferred to B.C.	590
Number of B.C. pensioners transferred to other Provinces	177
Number of pensioners from other Provinces transferred out of B.C. or suspended	354
Number of B.C. reinstatements granted	232
Number of B.C. pensions suspended	370
Number of deaths of B.C. pensioners	1,401
Number of deaths of "other Province" pensioners in B.C.	195
Total number of pensioners on pay-roll at end of fiscal year	17,925

TABLE 3.—REASONS WHY APPLICATIONS NOT GRANTED.

	Number.	Per Cent.
Ineligible on account of age	58	18.01
Ineligible on account of residence	23	7.14
Ineligible on account of citizenship	18	5.59
Ineligible on account of income	58	18.01
Ineligible on account of assistance from children	58	18.01
Ineligible because other resources were available	22	6.83
Ineligible because of a transfer of property	9	2.80
Application not completed	8	2.49
Application withdrawn	68	21.12
Total	322	

OLD-AGE PENSIONERS FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1946-47.

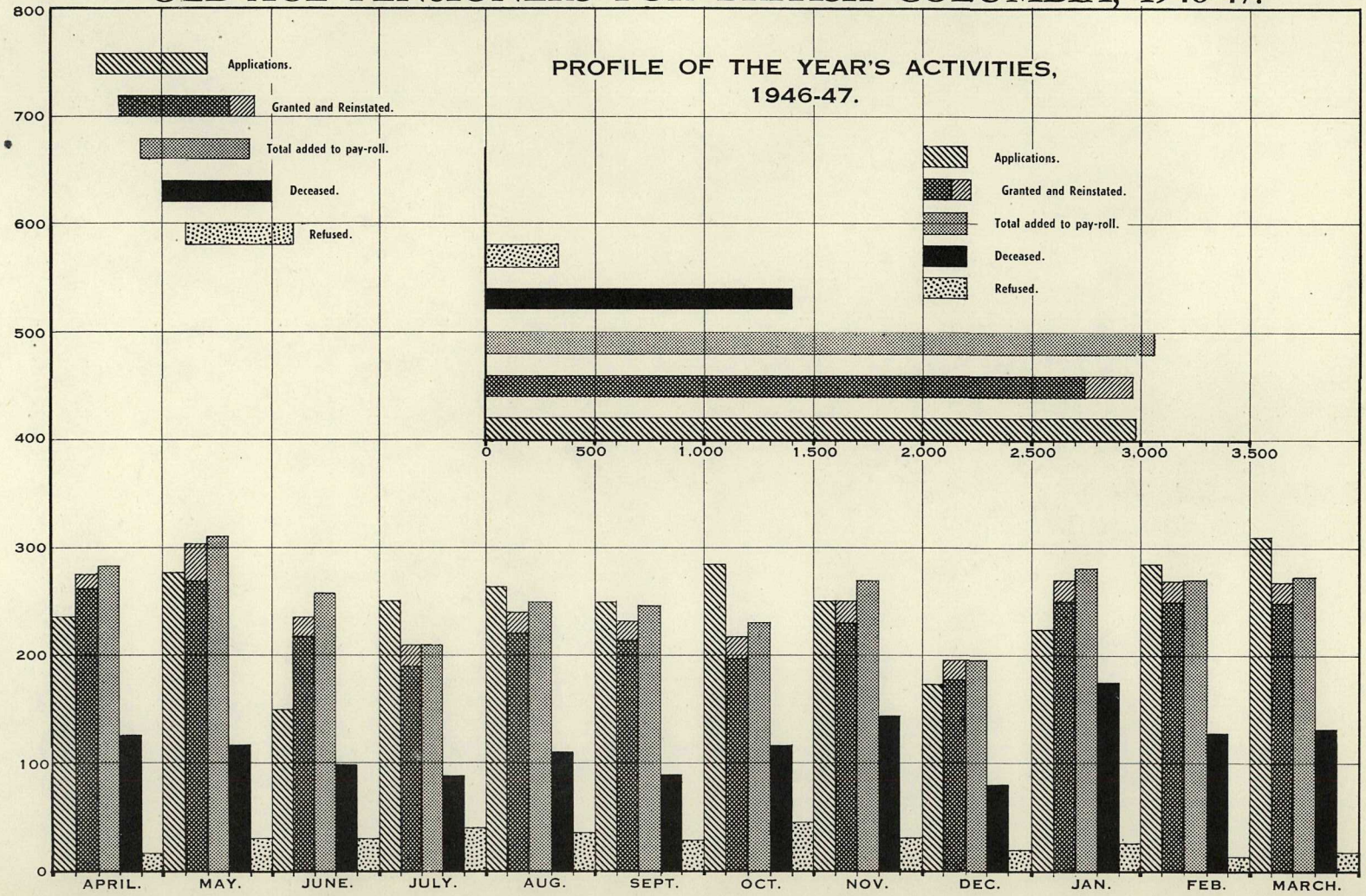


TABLE 4.—SEX OF NEW PENSIONERS.

	Number.	Per Cent.
Males	1,387	50.64
Females	1,352	49.36
Total	2,739	

TABLE 5.—MARITAL STATUS OF NEW PENSIONERS.

	Number.	Per Cent.
Married	1,227	44.80
Single	352	12.85
Widows	682	24.90
Widowers	299	10.92
Separated	166	6.06
Divorced	13	0.47
Total	2,739	

TABLE 6.—BIRTHPLACE OF NEW PENSIONERS.

	Number.	Per Cent.
British Columbia	44	1.61
Other parts of Canada	757	27.64
British Isles	1,383	50.49
Other parts of the British Empire	38	1.39
United States of America	167	6.09
Other foreign countries	350	12.78
Total	2,739	

TABLE 7.—AGES AT GRANTING OF NEW PENSIONS.

	Number.	Per Cent.
Age 70	1,188	43.37
Age 71	316	11.54
Age 72	271	9.89
Age 73	214	7.81
Age 74	157	5.73
Age 75	124	4.53
Age 76 to 80	342	12.49
Age 81 to 90	118	4.31
Age 91 and up	9	0.33
Total	2,739	

TABLE 8.—AGES OF PENSIONERS AT DEATH.

	Number.	Per Cent.
Age 70	36	2.24
Age 71	41	2.56
Age 72	78	4.87
Age 73	68	4.25
Age 74	99	6.19
Age 75	79	4.93
Age 76	106	6.63
Age 77	104	6.50
Age 78	114	7.13
Age 79	90	5.62
Age 80	97	6.06
Age 81	78	4.87
Age 82	82	5.13
Age 83	87	5.50
Age 84	74	4.62
Age 85	66	4.12
Age 86	60	3.77
Age 87	46	2.88
Age 88	59	3.69
Age 89	32	2.00
Age 90	27	1.68
Over 90	75	4.76
Total	1,598	

TABLE 9.—WITH WHOM NEW PENSIONERS LIVE.

	Number.	Per Cent.
Living alone	742	27.09
Living with spouse	890	32.49
Living with spouse and children	287	10.48
Living with children	513	18.73
Living with others	260	9.49
Living in public institutions	23	0.84
Living in private institutions	24	0.88
Total	2,739	

TABLE 10.—WHERE NEW PENSIONERS ARE LIVING.

	Number.	Per Cent.
In own house	962	35.12
In rented house	389	14.20
In rented suite	202	7.38
Boarding	768	28.04
In housekeeping room	276	10.08
In boarding-home	13	0.47
In institution	41	1.50
In single room (eating out)	88	3.21
Total	2,739	

TABLE 11.—ECONOMIC STATUS OF NEW PENSIONERS.

	Number.	Per Cent.
(*a*) Holding real property of value—		
$0	1,744	63.70
$1 to $250	299	10.91
$251 to $500	156	5.68
$501 to $1,000	256	9.34
$1,001 to $3,000	221	8.07
$3,001 and up	63	2.30
Total	2,739	
(*b*) Holding personal property of value—		
$0	1,267	46.25
$1 to $250	725	26.47
$251 to $500	351	12.82
$501 to $1,000	231	8.43
$1,001 and up	165	6.03
Total	2,739	

TABLE 12.—NUMBER OF PENSIONERS LIVING IN OTHER PROVINCES WHOSE PENSIONS WERE GRANTED BY BRITISH COLUMBIA AND ARE PAID WHOLLY OR PARTIALLY BY THIS PROVINCE.*

	Number.
Alberta	96
Saskatchewan	47
Manitoba	96
Ontario	95
Quebec	25
New Brunswick	10
Nova Scotia	29
Prince Edward Island	1
Northwest Territory	0
Total	399

* At March 31st, 1947.

TABLE 13.—CLAIMS AGAINST ESTATES, OLD-AGE AND BLIND.

Number of cases of deaths		1,428
Number of cases where claims were made		124
Number of cases where claims were waived or withdrawn in favour of beneficiaries		16
Number of cases on which collections were made (including cases from former years)		153
Total amount collected—		
Old-age	$76,710.91	
Blind	73.65	
Total	$76,784.56	

TABLE 14.—PERCENTAGE OF PENSIONERS TO POPULATION.*

Percentage of pensioners to the total population of the Province	1.80
Percentage of all persons over 70 years of age to the total population of the Province	5.08
Percentage of pensioners to the population over 70 years of age	35.37

* Percentages based on population estimated as at March 31st, 1947.

BLIND PENSIONS.

TABLE 1.—DISPOSITION OF APPLICATIONS.

	Current Year.	Total to March 31st, 1947.
Number of new applications received	50	668
Number of new applications granted	49*	428
Number of new applications not granted	9*	114

* Includes some held over from previous year.

TABLE 2.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Number of B.C. pensioners returned to B.C.	3
Number of new "other Province" pensioners transferred to B.C.	15
Number of B.C. pensioners transferred to other Provinces	3
Number of pensioners from other Provinces transferred out of B.C. or suspended	6
Number of B.C. reinstatements granted	8
Number of deaths of B.C. pensioners	27
Number of deaths of "other Province" pensioners in B.C.	----
Total number of pensioners on pay-roll at end of fiscal year	370

TABLE 3.—REASONS WHY APPLICATIONS NOT GRANTED.

	Number.	Per Cent.
Not blind within meaning of Act	4	44.45
Ineligible on account of income	2	22.22
Application withdrawn	2	22.22
Application not completed	1	11.11
Total	9	

TABLE 4.—SEX OF NEW PENSIONERS.

	Number.	Per Cent.
Males	26	53.06
Females	23	46.94
Total	49	

TABLE 5.—MARITAL STATUS OF NEW PENSIONERS.

	Number.	Per Cent.
Married	18	36.74
Single	19	38.78
Widows	9	18.36
Widowers	2	4.08
Separated	1	2.04
Total	49	

TABLE 6.—BIRTHPLACE OF NEW PENSIONERS.

	Number.	Per Cent.
British Columbia	3	6.12
Other parts of Canada	13	26.52
British Isles	22	44.94
Other parts of the British Empire	------	------
United States of America	2	4.08
Other foreign countries	9	18.34
Total	49	

TABLE 7.—AGES AT GRANTING OF NEW PENSIONS.

	Number.	Per Cent.
Age 40 to 44	9	18.36
Age 45 to 49	1	2.04
Age 50 to 54	2	4.08
Age 55 to 59	2	4.08
Age 60 to 64	13	26.54
Age 65 to 69	12	24.49
Age 70 and up	10	20.41
Total	49	

TABLE 8.—AGES OF PENSIONERS AT DEATH.

	Number.	Per Cent.
Age 50 to 54	1	3.70
Age 55 to 59	1	3.70
Age 60 to 64	1	3.70
Age 65 to 69	4	14.82
Age 70 to 90	20	74.08
Total	27	

TABLE 9.—WITH WHOM NEW PENSIONERS LIVE.

	Number.	Per Cent.
Living alone	10	20.40
Living with spouse	6	12.25
Living with spouse and children	10	20.40
Living with children	7	14.29
Living with others	14	28.58
Living in public institutions	1	2.04
Living in private institutions	1	2.04
Total	49	

TABLE 10.—WHERE NEW PENSIONERS ARE LIVING.

	Number.	Per Cent.
In own house	11	22.45
In rented house	11	22.45
In rented suite	4	8.16
Boarding	16	32.65
In housekeeping room	4	8.17
In boarding-home	------	------
In institution	2	4.08
In single room (eating out)	1	2.04
Total	49	

TABLE 11.—ECONOMIC STATUS OF NEW PENSIONERS.

	Number.	Per Cent.
(*a*) Holding real property of value—		
$0	20	40.00
$1 to $250	21	43.68
$251 to $500	3	6.12
$501 to $1,000	3	6.12
$1,001 and up	2	4.08
Total	49	
(*b*) Holding personal property of value—		
$0	16	31.81
$1 to $250	25	51.87
$251 to $500	3	6.12
$501 to $1,000	2	4.08
$1,001 and up	3	6.12
Total	49	

TABLE 12.—NUMBER OF PENSIONERS LIVING IN OTHER PROVINCES WHOSE PENSIONS WERE GRANTED BY BRITISH COLUMBIA AND ARE PAID WHOLLY OR PARTIALLY BY THIS PROVINCE.*

	Number
Alberta	1
Saskatchewan	1
Manitoba	1
Ontario	1
Quebec	1
New Brunswick	---
Nova Scotia	---
Prince Edward Island	---
Northwest Territory	---
Total	5

* At March 31st, 1947.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31ST, 1947.

TABLE 1.—PENSIONS.

	Pensions.	Supplementary Allowances.	Total.
Total amount paid pensioners in British Columbia—			
Old-age	$5,104,796.64	$1,231,042.62	$6,335,839.26
Blind	107,408.54	25,987.54	133,396.08
Totals	$5,212,205.18	$1,257,030.16	$6,469,235.34
Less amount of refunds from pensioners and estates—			
From estates of old-age pensioners	$76,710.91		$76,710.91
From estates of blind pensioners	73.65		73.65
Overpayments refunded by old-age pensioners	3,216.82	$294.00	3,510.82
Overpayments refunded by blind pensioners			
Miscellaneous refunds from old-age pensioners	1,974.52	315.00	2,289.52
Miscellaneous refunds from blind pensioners	25.00	5.00	30.00
Totals	$82,000.90	$614.00	$82,614.90
Net amount paid pensioners in British Columbia—			
Old-age	$5,022,894.39	$1,230,433.62	$6,253,328.01
Blind	107,309.89	25,982.54	133,292.43
Totals	$5,130,204.28	$1,256,416.16	$6,386,620.44
Add amount paid other Provinces on account of pensioners for whom British Columbia is partly responsible—			
Old-age	$28,066.52	$8,828.47	$36,894.99
Blind	447.43	190.00	637.43
Totals	$28,513.95	$9,018.47	$37,532.42
Less amount received by British Columbia on account of pensioners for whom other Provinces are partly responsible—			
Old-age	$275,208.14	$78,341.22	$353,549.36
Blind	5,342.50	1,055.00	6,397.50
Totals	$280,550.64	$79,396.22	$359,946.86

	Pensions.	Supplementary Allowances.	Total.
Less amount refunded by the Dominion Government—			
Old-age	$3,767,623.23		$3,767,623.23
Blind	80,435.16		80,435.16
Totals	$3,848,058.39		$3,848,058.39
Total amount paid by British Columbia—			
Old-age	$1,008,129.54	$1,160,920.87	$2,169,050.41
Blind	21,979.66	25,117.54	47,097.20
Totals	$1,030,109.20	$1,186,038.41	$2,216,147.61

TABLE 2.—ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES.

Salaries and special services	$60,883.72
Office supplies, subscriptions, etc.	5,284.32
Postage, telephone and telegraph	12,231.31
Bank exchange	1,957.35
Travelling expenses	243.25
Incidentals and contingencies	1,368.11
Total	$81,968.06

TABLE 3.—SUPPLEMENTARY ALLOWANCES.

Gross amount of supplementary allowances paid in British Columbia	$1,265,434.63
Supplementary allowances refunded by other Provinces	79,396.22
Net supplementary allowances paid by British Columbia	$1,186,038.41

The Board welcomes this opportunity to express its appreciation for the assistance received during the past year from many sources. In the Social Service section of the report our acknowledgment of the help received from various social agencies has already been recorded. Here we would like to add our sincere thanks to other branches and divisions of the public service for co-operation readily given at all times. To the field staff and members of our own office staff in particular, however, we wish to express our sincere appreciation for work done willingly and efficiently and often under trying circumstances.

J. H. CREIGHTON.
Chairman.

PROVINCIAL HOME.

I beg to submit herewith the annual report of the Provincial Home, Kamloops, for the year ended March 31st, 1947.

In the financial statement forming part of this report it will be noted that the operating cost has increased from the previous year, and which is reflected in a higher *per capita* cost. In my opinion this higher rate is directly attributable to the increase in food prices and operating expenses generally.

During the year there were 42 admissions, 29 deaths, and 35 discharged or left on leave of absence. Of this latter group, 22 were readmitted. As at March 31st, 1947, there were 146 men resident in the Home.

The physical condition of the men seeking admission to the Home is usually such as to preclude most of them from engaging in duties of maintenance of this institution. Where possible, however, men are allotted certain tasks which they are capable of performing and for which they receive reasonable remuneration. The conduct of the men has, on the whole, been satisfactory.

Medical attention is available at all times. Once each week a doctor visits the Home to examine any man in need of his services and, of course, is available at other times when called upon. Each new admission is examined as soon as feasible after his arrival at the Home. There are sixteen beds in the sick-ward, and the lower floor of the west wing has ten beds which are usually occupied by bed patients. During the influenza epidemic in the winter there were fifty-two bed patients for a short period, and which meant that the matron and her staff of orderlies worked under heavy pressure. Their handling of this situation deserves commendation.

During the year a representative of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind visited all the men eligible for service from that organization. They received the attention their conditions warranted. All the inmates and staff were X-rayed by the Provincial tuberculosis unit in February. All old-age pensioners in the Home were contacted by social workers of the local office of the Social Welfare Branch.

Maintenance of the buildings, equipment, and grounds has been kept to an acceptable standard, I believe. The fire chiefs from Tranquille and City of Kamloops made regular inspections, and their instructions and recommendations have been carried out.

Recreation and amusements for the men in residence at the Home are varied and greatly appreciated. Moving pictures are shown once each week; there is a good library; the smoking-room is equipped for card games; and radios permit the men to keep abreast of the news and to follow their favourite programs. Various religious denominations make weekly visits. During the Christmas season, gifts were distributed and entertainments provided by various organizations.

The farm in connection with the Home proved a valuable asset in supplying fresh vegetables, thus reducing the operating costs to some extent.

Rationing restrictions and difficulty in obtaining certain supplies created some inconveniences, but in my opinion the meals served were good and wholesome, with a menu varied sufficiently that they could not become monotonous. The cook in charge of the kitchen deserves credit for his efforts and the interest he takes in the performance of his duties.

In so far as I am aware, the men, on the whole, are comfortable. In plans being formulated for the coming year, I trust it will be possible to further improve conditions so that the period of time spent in the Provincial Home by these elderly men, many of them pioneers of this Province, will be such that they will refer to it with pleasure.

In concluding this report may I express my appreciation of the advice and assistance which I have at all times received from the officials of not only the Social Welfare Branch, but of other departments of the Provincial Government. Since the transfer

of the administration of the Provincial Home from the Department of the Provincial Secretary to the Social Welfare Branch of the Department of Health and Welfare, it has meant a close contact with the regional administrator of that Branch. His ready and willing assistance is acknowledged and appreciated.

P. A. McDade,
Superintendent.

HEALTH.

I beg to submit herewith a brief report of that phase of the operation of the Provincial Home under my supervision during the fiscal year ended March 31st, 1947.

All persons in the sick-ward and others requiring medical attention come under my supervision. These patients are visited by the doctor once each week, and who is also available if called upon at other times. In day-to-day attention to our patients it is found that many of them require treatment for injured nails, corns, callouses, eyes, and ears.

Approximately thirty of the men in the Home are chronic cases, requiring routine care according to their condition. All these men have their meals served to them under my direction. Male orderlies do the bathing and perform general services to the patients.

During the month of February we had a considerable number of patients ill with influenza, which placed a heavy strain on our nursing services. I am pleased to report that only one death can be attributed to that epidemic.

It is my constant endeavour to render every service I can and to make our patients as comfortable as possible. To that end and for the convenience of the staff as a whole I trust that from time to time I shall be able to make further suggestions or recommendations.

Mary H. Aynsley, R.N.,
Matron.

EXPENDITURE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31ST, 1947.

RECAPITULATION.

Salaries		$39,338.64	
Less board and rent deductions		4,032.75	
			$35,305.89
Cost-of-living bonus			7,020.40
Expenses—			
Office supplies, etc.		$310.93	
Less Unemployment Insurance deductions		56.83	
			254.10
Fuel, light, and water		$11,159.36	
Less—			
Charged to Provincial Police	$1,877.11		
Charged to Public Works Department	1,712.39		
		3,589.50	
			7,569.86
Janitors' supplies and maintenance of grounds			603.20
Furnishings and equipment			1,662.36
Provisions			15,968.75
Clothing		$2,244.95	
Less rebate		1.00	
			2,243.95
Medical and surgical supplies			2,154.33
Transportation of inmates			400.55
Feed for live stock			1,159.89
Incidentals and contingencies		$4,010.01	
Less—			
Comfort funds from Trust Account	$1,814.71		
Sale of gravel	9.30		
Rent of pasture	12.00		
		1,836.01	
			2,174.00
Provincial Home expenditure			$76,517.28
Public Works expenditure			6,307.33
Total expenditure			$82,824.61
Moneys paid to Government Agent, Kamloops			$34,354.11

Inmate-days.

Inmates in Home, March 31st, 1946	146	
Inmates admitted during the year	64	
		210
Inmates discharged	35	
Inmates died	29	
		64
Total number of inmates, March 31st, 1947		146
Total number of inmate-days		51,863
Total *per diem per capita* cost		$1.597

RESEARCH CONSULTANT.

The Research Consultant begs to present the following report for the fiscal year 1946–47.

At the close of the previous year a study of housing for the aged was in process of being made. This included a fairly detailed study of such housing in four municipalities, together with all available information on the newest and best plans for housing for the aged as revealed in current publications in North America and England. After this was completed a digest was made of the material regarding new trends of housing for the aged.

As the library for the Social Welfare Department was being assembled in the Training Supervisor's office, and it was felt that it had now reached a size that modern cataloguing was essential, the Research Consultant undertook the cataloguing and indexing of the library.

The second research project was "A Study of Ten Immigrant Families." This had been suggested originally when the study of the Boys' Industrial School revealed the large number of recidivists whose parents were born outside Canada. The selection of families was made, therefore, from this group. Each family was analysed, showing the family group and the cost to the public purse under the headings "Social Assistance," "Delinquency," "Mental and Physical Health." A short résumé of the family history accompanied each chart. This type of research involved not only a great deal of work on the part of the Research Consultant, but depended for its factual value on the help of many other agencies—help which was freely given.

An immediate start was then made on a study of the overseas children who were sent to British Columbia for safety in 1940. Although it may be difficult to evaluate results, since the children are nearly all returned to their homes and the responsible English agency no longer in existence, it should at least provide a history of what seemed to be a fairly large undertaking, and should give some information of definite value regarding foster-home selection, and supervision. It may be possible when conditions improve in England to get some social agency to do a follow-up study of the children who presented definite problems while they were in care in British Columbia.

ISOBEL HARVEY,
Research Consultant.

SOCIAL ALLOWANCES.

The report on social allowances for this year again shows an increase both in expenditure and in the numbers receiving this form of assistance. The tables following give certain statistics on a comparative basis.

Case-loads for the months of March, 1945, 1946, and 1947:—

	March, 1945.	March, 1946.	March, 1947.
Heads of families	1,276	1,517	1,853
Dependents	2,442	3,087	3,839
Single men and women	3,893	4,438	5,061
Totals	7,611	9,042	10,753

The above represents the total numbers on social allowances regardless of where resident or whether classified as municipal or Provincial responsibilities under the "Residence and Responsibility Act."

A breakdown of the financial responsibility for the same months shows:—

	March, 1945.	March, 1946.	March, 1947.
	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
Municipal responsibility	64.87	63.74	63.82
Provincial responsibility	35.13	36.26	36.18

As this form of aid is administered by the local area in which the recipient resides, a further breakdown of residence discloses:—

	March, 1945.	March, 1946.	March, 1947.
	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
Recipients residing in organized territory	68.69	67.77	68.39
Recipients residing in unorganized territory	31.31	32.23	31.61

From the above two tables it will be seen that there has been no appreciable change in the percentages of municipal or Provincial responsibilities. It will be noted, however, that a slightly higher percentage of Provincial cases reside in municipalities than is indicated by the residence responsibility. As this percentage has remained almost without change during the past three years, there is no evidence that social allowance in a city or other municipality offers more attraction than in unorganized territory. In my opinion this slightly higher percentage is due to the fact that medical services are usually more readily available in organized than in unorganized territory.

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

	Fiscal Year 1945–46.	Fiscal Year 1946–47.
Cases who are the responsibility of a municipality (80 per cent. paid by Province)	$897,595.06	$1,047,635.94
Cases who are the sole responsibility of the Province (100 per cent. paid by Province)	525,121.05	638,227.97
Repatriation, transportation within the Province, nursing-home care (other than T.B.) for Provincial cases, special allowances, and grants*	12,545.03	16,893.65
Medical services—Provincial and municipal cases (social allowance, old-age pensioners, and mothers' allowance cases)	146,269.89	185,973.68
Emergency payments—such as where family may lose their home by fire or similar circumstances	608.17	967.91
Municipal and Provincial cases—		
(*a*) Tuberculosis nursing-home cases	*Nil*	*Nil*
(*b*) Tuberculosis private-home cases	127,931.41	179,905.19
(*c*) Transportation of tuberculosis cases	2,002.50	2,371.56
(*d*) Comforts allowance for tuberculosis cases	3,315.00	6,358.40
Dependents of conscientious objectors	1,179.30	422.40
Dependents of enemy aliens	871.91	*Nil*
Allowances to Saskatchewan Mennonites	856.52	*Nil*
Allowances to Japanese persons	121.20	330.00
	$1,718,417.04	$2,079,086.70
Less recovered by refund and payment from Dominion Government, "conscientious objectors"	$1,179.30	*Nil*
Less recovered by refund and payment from Dominion Government, "dependents of enemy aliens"	871.91	*Nil*
Less recovered from Province of Saskatchewan, "Mennonite settlers"	856.52	*Nil*
Less recovered by refund and payment from Dominion Government, "allowances to Japanese persons"	121.20	*Nil*
Total refunds	$3,028.93	*Nil*
Total expenditure by Province	$1,715,388.11	$2,079,086.70

* Includes $4,661.66 expended in repatriating to other Provinces persons not eligible under section 5 (*b*) of the "Social Assistance Act."

In reviewing the increased expenditures for this year, it will be seen that, in addition to general assistance, medical services and extra allowances in respect to tuberculosis patients and contacts account to a considerable extent for the higher costs. Municipal and Provincial officials are making greater use of the "T.B. benefits," which is in line with the Government's control-of-tuberculosis policy and which will, I believe, prove to be money well expended. Medical services are provided to recipients of social allowance, mothers' allowance, and old-age and blind pensions. As our case-loads in these categories increase, so, too, will the cost of medical services.

Social allowances continue to be administered by the local area, municipal or provincial, and are on a shareable financial basis. The Province accepts the total cost of

allowances to Provincial cases and reimburses the respective municipalities 80 per cent. of the allowances granted to municipal responsibilities on the basis of our social allowance guide.

The flexible nature of this form of aid enables it to meet many situations not provided for in other social welfare legislation. It continued to be available to unemployables. During the war years employment was obtained by many persons who had been considered as unemployable or but partially employable. These opportunities are now decreasing. Our field staff are utilizing every resource by which such persons can be placed in reasonable employment, but the ages of many of them preclude entire success.

In my opinion we may expect a further increase in numbers and costs during the coming year.

C. W. LUNDY,
Director of Welfare.

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