

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

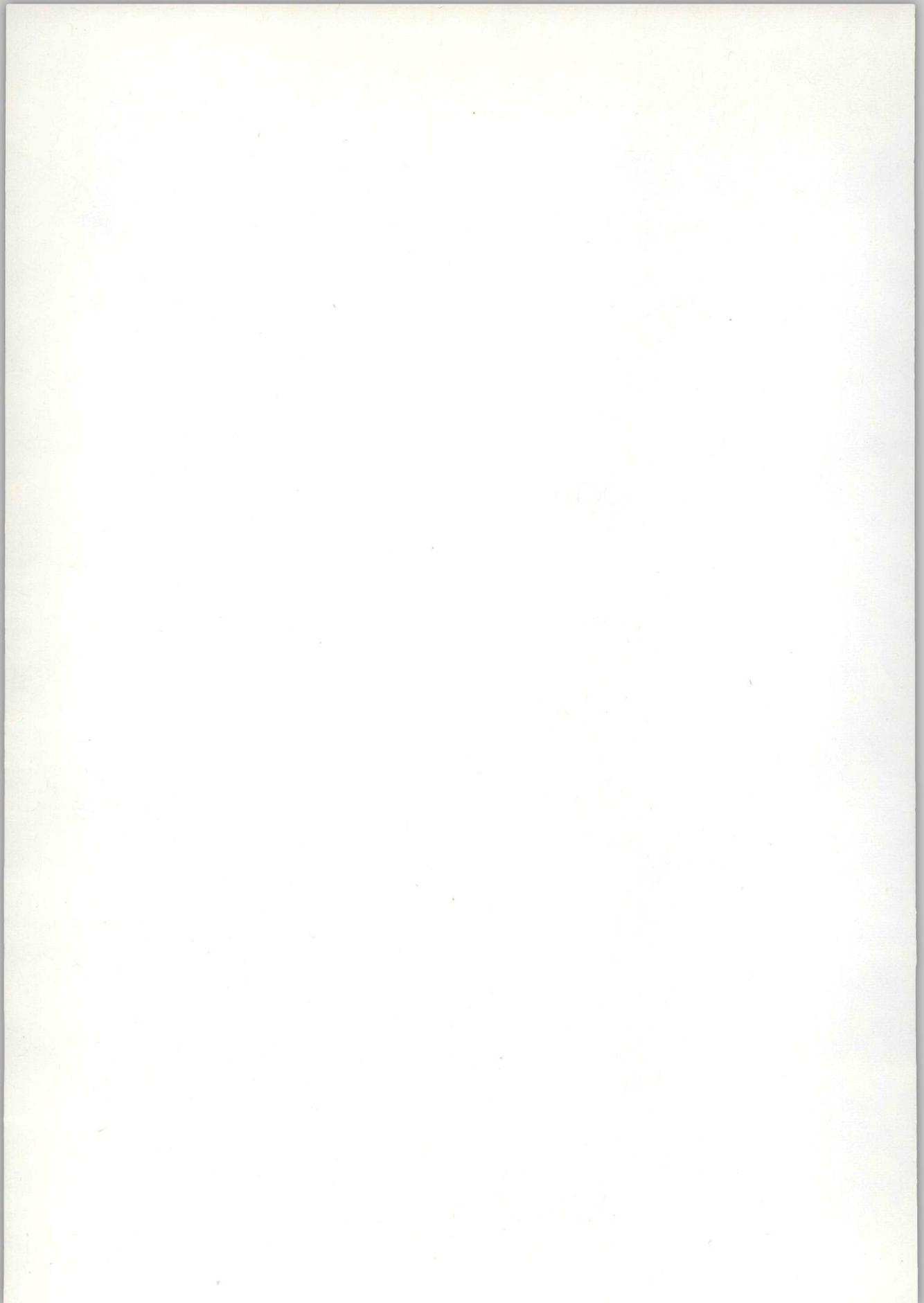
Annual Report of
The Social Welfare Branch
of the Department of
Health and Welfare

For the Year Ended March 31st

1956



VICTORIA, B.C.
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1956



VICTORIA, B.C., November 26th, 1956.

To His Honour FRANK MACKENZIE ROSS, C.M.G., M.C.,
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, 1956, is herewith respectfully submitted.

E. C. F. MARTIN,
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 26th, 1956.

The Honourable E. C. F. Martin,
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, 1956.

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

E. R. RICKINSON,
Deputy Minister of Welfare.

SOCIAL WELFARE BRANCH,
VICTORIA, B.C., November 26th, 1956.

E. R. Rickinson, Esq.,
Deputy Minister of Welfare.

SIR,—I am pleased to submit herewith the Report of the Social Welfare Branch for the year ended March 31st, 1956.

J. A. SADLER,
Director of Welfare.

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE
(SOCIAL WELFARE BRANCH)**

Hon. E. F. C. MARTIN.....*Minister of Health and Welfare.*

SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

E. R. RICKINSON.....*Deputy Minister.*
J. A. SADLER.....*Director of Welfare.*
Miss AMY LEIGH.....*Assistant Director.*
Miss MARIE RIDDELL.....*Provincial Supervisor, Family Division.*
Miss RUBY MCKAY.....*Superintendent of Child Welfare.*
E. W. BERRY.....*Chairman, Old-age Assistance and Blind
Persons' and Disabled Persons' Allowances
Boards, and Cost-of-living Bonus.*

Dr. J. C. MOSCOVICH.....*Director of Medical Services.*
Mrs. E. L. PAGE.....*Chief Inspector of Welfare Institutions.*
Miss E. S. WYNESS.....*Provincial Supervisor, Social Service Depart-
ment, Divisions of Tuberculosis Control
and Venereal Disease Control.*

F. G. HASSARD.....*Superintendent, Brannen Lake School for
Boys.*

Miss W. M. URQUHART.....*Superintendent, Girls' Industrial School.*
J. M. SHILLAND.....*Superintendent, Provincial Home.*
E. L. RIMMER.....*Administrator, Region I.*
R. TALBOT.....*Administrator, Region II.*
R. I. STRINGER.....*Administrator, Region III.*
J. W. SMITH.....*Administrator, Region IV.*
V. H. DALLAMORE.....*Administrator, Region V.*
Miss MARY K. KING.....*Administrator, Region VI.*

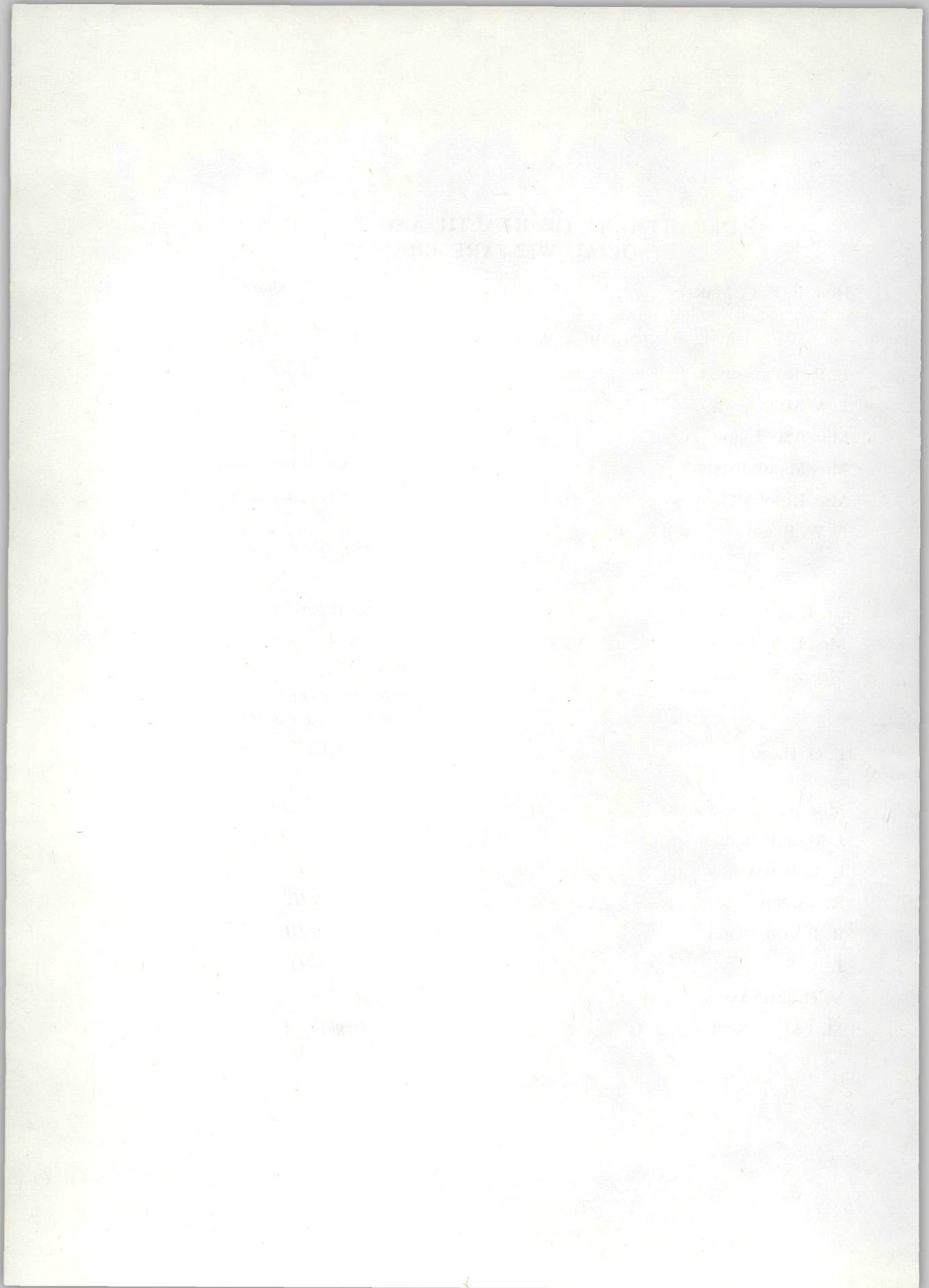
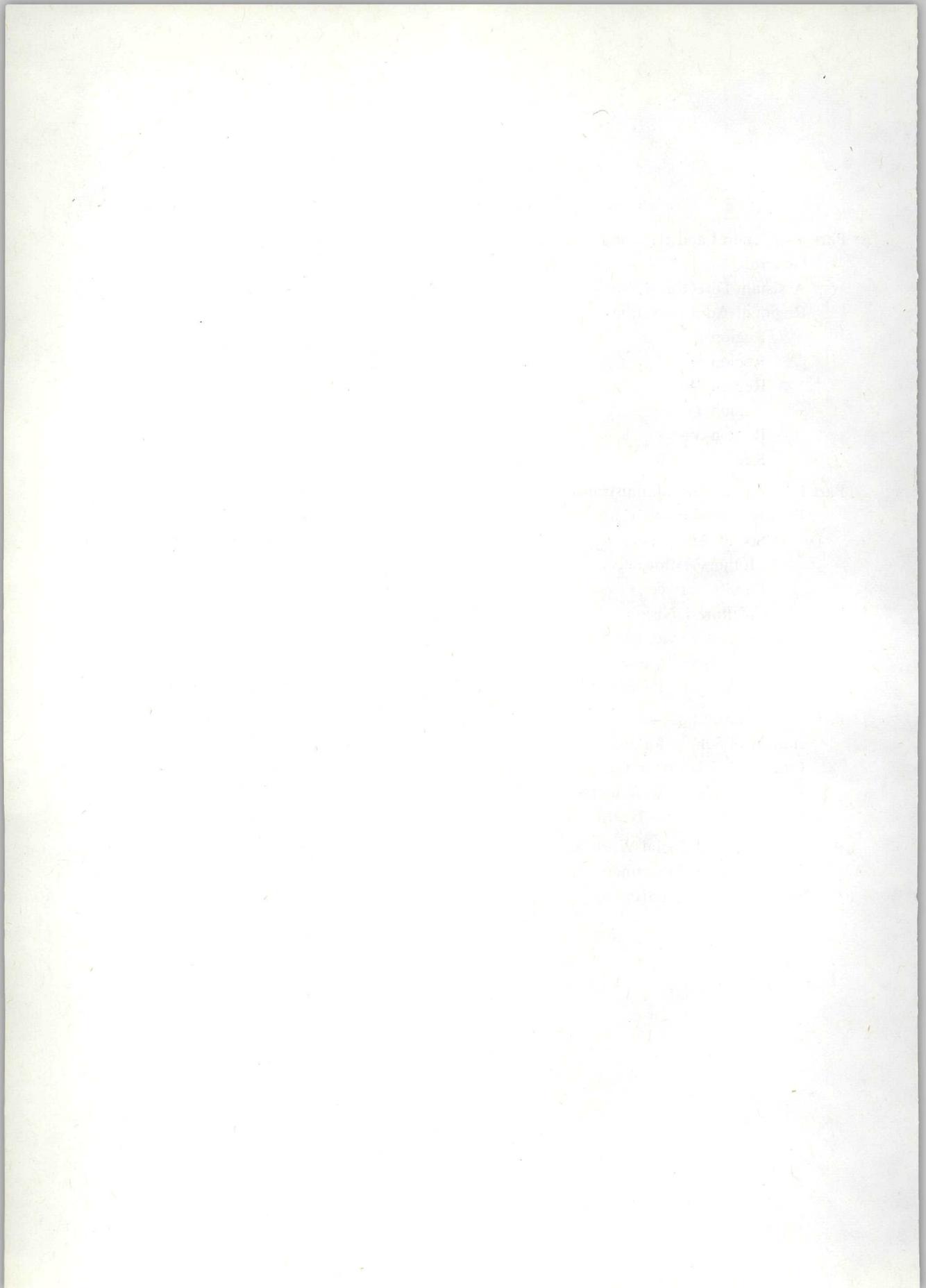


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Report of the Social Welfare Branch

PART I.—GENERAL AND REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION

GENERAL

The population of British Columbia in 1955-56 continued to grow, and the estimated population is now 1,353,000. The number of individuals helped by the Social Welfare Branch also showed an increase. The following table covers the years 1954, 1955, and 1956. It is apparent from these figures that although the case load increased in certain categories, a decrease took place in other groups.

Table I.—Numerical and Percentage Comparison of Case Load¹ by Major Categories of Service as at March 31st for the Years 1954, 1955, and 1956

Category of Service	1954		1955		1956	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Total for Province.....	60,468	100.00	61,506	100.00	62,764	100.00
Family Service.....	1,545	2.55	1,728	2.80	1,640	2.61
Social Assistance ²	10,779	17.82	11,692	19.00	11,610	18.47
Blind Persons' Allowance.....	439	0.72	440	0.71	451	0.72
Old-age Assistance.....	10,062	16.64 } ³	9,240	15.02 } ³	8,853	14.04 } ³
Old Age Security bonus and health services	31,638	52.32 }	31,797	51.70 }	32,494	51.77 }
Disabled Persons' Allowance.....	—	—	147	0.23	959	1.53
Child Welfare.....	4,945	8.17	5,337	8.67	5,669	9.03
Health and institutional ⁴	1,060	1.75	1,125	1.82	1,088	1.73

¹ Case load is the total of family units and shared services.

² Social Assistance is the total of Mothers' Allowance and Social Allowance services.

³ Combined percentage of: 1954, 68.96; 1955, 66.72; 1956, 65.81.

⁴ Health and institutional is the total of TB., Psychiatric, Collections, Hospital Clearance, Provincial Home, Provincial Infirmary, and Welfare Institutions Services.

It is interesting to note that the case loads have neither increased nor decreased to a marked degree during the three-year period compared. In 1954, however, 68.96 per cent of the case load was in the old-age categories, and this figure decreased in 1955 to 66.72 per cent and again decreased in 1956 to 65.81 per cent of the case load. This decrease was not only percentage-wise, but in the number of actual cases in the Old-age Assistance group, although a slight increase occurred in the number of individuals in the Old Age Security bonus group. Although the population of the Province is ageing, evidently the majority of the people reaching the ages of 65 and 70 have resources of one kind or another on which to draw, and thus do not need to turn to public sources for assistance. Nevertheless, the older members in communities do face many problems, such as loneliness, their feeling of lack of being needed, and their inability to use constructively their experience and talents which they have developed throughout their lifetimes. The whole field of geriatrics is one which must be studied constructively, so that senior citizens may take their rightful place in the social and productive life of the Province.

The "Disabled Persons' Allowances Act" was not in effect in 1954, and thus the table does not show a case load for that year. The Act became effective in 1955, and the notable increase in the number of Disabled Persons' Allowances in 1956 is the direct result of the implementation of the Act.

The balance of the figures in the table are self-explanatory, although the constant increase in Child Welfare can be attributed to the continuing increase in the population of the Province.

The meetings of the Planning Council and regional administrators were used to full advantage throughout the year. Problems of policy and operation were discussed and recommendations made to administration for more efficient operation of services. One of the main items brought under consideration was the statistical-return method, and this study is already proving its worth.

The pages of this Report will highlight the efforts made by the members of the Social Welfare Branch to give sound generic casework service to all citizens whether or not we may categorize them as children, middle-aged or senior citizens. It is apparent that, whether or not an individual is a child or an adult, at some point in his life he may need assistance in resolving his own difficulties, and the members of the Social Welfare Branch are making every effort to help him in this need. In the case of children, the attempt is made to alleviate the condition under which the child may be adversely affected; and with the adult, the policy is to assist him to become a self-supporting and integrated member of the community. Both with children and with adults the social workers' efforts are based on alleviation of suffering and assisting the individual to become, or to remain, a self-supporting member of his community. The Branch emphasis is on preventive work both with young and old. The programme, of course, depends upon staff, and staff matters are elaborated on in the report of the Assistant Director of Welfare.

The municipal welfare administrators have continued their utmost co-operation in the over-all programme. In fact, some municipalities have made notable strides in arranging care for the aged and in carrying out policies whereby all citizens in areas of need receive every welfare service municipalities are able to provide.

Every effort has been made to continue the programme of organization of the Civil Defence welfare service on a local basis. Staff members have continued to take Civil Defence courses, but the programme has been one of development of local groups, with the social worker taking his proper role in group effort.

Two extremely important changes in the personnel of the Social Welfare Branch took place due to the passing of the late Mr. C. W. Lundy, Deputy Minister of Welfare, and the late Mr. J. H. Creighton, Chairman of the Old-age Assistance Board. Mr. E. R. Rickinson was appointed Deputy Minister of Welfare and Mr. E. W. Berry was appointed Chairman of the Old-age Assistance Board.

In the passing of Mr. Lundy and Mr. Creighton, the Branch suffered two grievous losses.

Mr. Lundy, who died on December 28th, 1955, at the age of 61, had been with the Provincial Government for twenty-two years and had been Deputy Minister of Welfare for fourteen months. He was born in Ontario and grew up in Salmon Arm, British Columbia. He served in the First World War and began work with the Provincial Government as relief investigator, and worked through the ranks until he became Director of Welfare in 1943. Mr Lundy was loved by all for his extremely humanitarian approach in his dealings with people. In his interpretation of social welfare legislation, he always saw the phrase "to help the needy" in its fullest context and gained high regard and the respect of all for his quiet, kindly leadership.

Mr. Creighton died on November 18th, 1955, aged 58 years. He was a native of Quebec Province and came to Vancouver as a boy of 12. He gained his Master of Arts degree at the University of British Columbia and did graduate work at Columbia University, New York. He taught in Vancouver schools until he gave up teaching for a social welfare post in Victoria, and in 1943 was appointed Chairman of the Old-age Assistance Board. He is sadly missed by his colleagues and many associates across Canada, who held him and his unselfish and untiring efforts in high regard. His loss is also keenly felt by many old-age pensioners who experienced his kind and sympathetic attention.

J. A. SADLER,
Director of Welfare

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF WELFARE

I beg to submit the following report of my activities in the fiscal year 1955-56.

The bulk of the work entailed in the office of the Assistant Director consists of maintaining the staff of the Branch. The standards of service the Branch gives are dependent upon the quality of the people it employs and upon their knowledge, understanding, and skills. The remedial intent of the legislation administered and the extent and complexity of the human problems treated require the utmost knowledge, understanding, and skill, and require, too, the utmost devotion. Provision of the means to increase knowledge and understanding, to perfect skills, and to sustain devotion are, among many other things, implied by the term "maintaining the staff of the Branch." Activities here relate more specifically to the established Branch practices in staff development and personnel. Each will be reviewed under these headings later in this report.

The "maintenance of staff" does not stop with the social workers employed. Indispensable to their everyday work and to the standards of service are the clerical staff who assist them. Similarly indispensable to the institutions administered by the Branch—the Boys' and the Girls' Schools and the Provincial Men's Home—are the counsellors, and programme directors, the orderlies and nurses, the cooks, gardeners, and maintenance staff. All have a direct influence on standards of service. Each is known to the Assistant Director with respect to his or her terms of employment, and with respect to his or her value to the total operation.

Knowing and respecting the "terms of employment" for all staff—some 556 people—entails a voluminous amount of detailed administrative work. The confidential personnel record maintained in the Assistant Director's office on each staff member employed accounts for the employee's discharge of each of the many terms of employment—processed application forms, letters of reference, health reports, salary classifications, evaluations, rating forms, record of holidays, sick-leaves, transfers, advancements, termination, and any individual matter requiring that exceptions be made to the usual order of employment. As the staff is located in all parts of the Province, correspondence on all these matters adds to the volume of this work. The well-being of each individual member of the staff and the interests of the Branch demand that this work be meticulously done.

Upon the staff's sense of well-being depends its stability, its loyalty and willingness to extend the best effort of which it is capable. Regional Administrators and supervisors do most to keep their staff working as a team to achieve the purposes of the Branch. The general administration, although it is geographically removed from the field practice, nevertheless must keep in close touch with the total operation, and must also appreciate the pressures under which staffs work. This cannot be done solely by correspondence. Periodic visits to the field and divisions have always been considered desirable. The Assistant Director of Welfare this year attended the regional staff meeting in Prince George, and she visited the Provincial Home at Kamloops. Also, she attended staff meetings in Region I and in the Child Welfare Division. Her activities in other matters have this year made it difficult to meet and talk with the many other staffs in their local offices. Next year this will be done. In this way the field staff will appreciate that the total Branch is a team, and the administration a strong partner in the total effort.

STAFF

The following tables reveal the numbers of all staff employed, the areas in which they work, and the qualifications of the social workers. No table could depict the quality of services each individual staff member gives. That quality of service is widely known and respected in the communities of this Province, which is the highest tribute one could pay to its staff.

The following table shows the number of all staff (clerical, professional, and technical) employed by location as at March 31st, 1956:—

Office of Deputy Minister of Welfare	2
Director of Welfare	4
Field service	325
Medical Services Division	11
Child Welfare Division	20
Provincial Home	31
Brannen Lake School	65
Girls' Industrial School	29
Old-age Assistance Board	63
Family Division	6
Total staff	556

The following table gives the total professional staff employed and comparative figures of university and in-service trained men and women at the end of the fiscal years 1955 and 1956, as well as the numbers receiving formal training, joining, and (or) resigning from the Branch during the past fiscal year:—

	Men		Women		Total
	University Trained	In-service Trained	University Trained	In-service Trained	
Total staff, March 31st, 1955.....	51	44	105	55	255
Number receiving formal training during fiscal year.....	+4	-4	+3	-3	
Staff appointed, April 1st, 1955, to March 31st, 1956.....	55	40	108	52	
Resignations, April 1st, 1955, to March 31st, 1956.....	7	11	26	15	59
Total staff, March 31st, 1956.....	7	8	35	16	66
	55	43	99	51	248

The following table gives a breakdown of total professional staff according to their training as at March 31st, 1956:—

	Men	Women	Total
Masters of Social Work.....	20	26	46
Second year of training but M.S.W. thesis not completed.....	4	1	5
First year of training but M.S.W. thesis not completed.....	2	1	3
Bachelor of Social Work.....	21	40	61
Social Service diploma.....	3	23	26
One year at School but no diploma or degree.....	5	5	10
Two years at School but no diploma or degree.....	—	1	1
In-service trainees now at School.....	—	2	2
In-service trained.....	43	51	94
Totals.....	98	150	248

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

In the past fiscal year the programme of staff development has proceeded as in former years. It has a progressive effect. It does not obtrude upon the work that is done, for the means by which it is carried out are already established.

Supervision is the most important means. Supervisors have heavy responsibilities in administrative matters, and added to these are the responsibility of teaching in-service classes and in deepening the understanding and skills of all staff. These latter responsibilities are ably carried out. To help the supervisors gain in skills of supervision, both administrative and teaching, the annual institute for supervisors was again held. This week-long meeting provided not only an excellent learning experience, but the

chance for supervisors to talk together about their mutual problems, and to talk to the administration of the complexities of their work.

Staff meetings are necessary to the operation of the district offices, and these, in the past year, have been more consciously used for staff development or teaching and learning purposes. The library has been used to a greater extent than ever before. The introduction of the new Disabled Persons' Allowance programme opens up new fields of inquiry in regard to casework or rehabilitation services, especially in respect to mental deficiency. Study of these aspects of the generalized programme is proceeding.

The Training Division was augmented by the appointment of an assistant to the Training Supervisor, which permitted more thought and activity in regard to staff development of the whole staff. At the same time, fifty-seven people were given training by this Division in three introductory and four final group sessions.

Throughout the year, 236 staff members have resigned and 251 appointments have been made. However, these numbers include casual full-time or part-time employees, many of whom work in institutions on a relief basis. Thirty-seven transfers from one office to another have taken place. This activity is indicative of one of the gravest problems facing social agencies to-day. Shortage of qualified people is the most serious probably, but next is that of the high turnover of staff. The resulting disruption of services holds back the attainment of goals worked out with and for each client; resumption of the service by another social worker means that services are given at a different level of competence.

A principal effort in personnel work becomes that of holding staff on the job. This means knowing the individual staff member well—his potential and his present value—and of helping him to see that his own goals for himself may, with help, be realized in this Branch. A dignity associates with a career in the public service. Opportunities exist for advancement and specialization. By providing good conditions of employment, the Branch can hope to hold people in this important work.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Throughout the year the Assistant Director has chaired a committee appointed by the Minister to study and to recommend plans for a new Girls' Industrial School. This committee has met twenty-two times and, in collaboration with the Provincial Architect, submitted its report to the Minister in December, 1955. This committee activity has involved consultation with other similar institutions by correspondence and personal inspection, recommendation of suitable location for the new building, and consideration of future staff needs.

During the year under review, eight social workers have attended Civil Defence courses. Representatives also attended the Northwest Regional Conference, Child Welfare League of America; Canadian Welfare Council Annual Meeting; Family Service Association of America Regional Institute; and the American Public Welfare Association Conference in Sacramento. At the latter the Assistant Director of Welfare took part in a panel discussion and was responsible for the introduction of speakers at the Conference luncheon.

Respectfully submitted.

(MISS) AMY LEIGH,
Assistant Director of Welfare.

REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION

REGION I

I beg to submit the annual report for the fiscal year 1955-56, which outlines statistical information on welfare case loads by categories in this region, together with population in the organized area. A résumé is also given of the activities of the Branch in Region I, which comprises Vancouver Island, near-by islands, and a northern strip of the Mainland.

It is estimated there are 245,000 persons within the boundary of the region, with about half of these people concentrated in the southerly part—the Victoria-Saanich-Gulf Islands areas.

The major industries of lumber, pulp, paper, and coal are to be found generally in all parts of the area, as are the secondary industries—fishing, dairy-farming, and agriculture. The tourist trade also plays a large part in the economy of the region, and during the year immediately past this trade was reasonably good, extending to the end of October.

The month of November brought disaster by heavy rainfall to many parts of the Province, but Vancouver Island escaped with lighter damage. Many areas were inundated with the steady rainfall and the heavy run-off of melting snow from the mountains. November 11th to 16th brought Victoria the coldest weather in the past fifty-six years. These conditions caused a cessation of industrial activity, which resulted in a greater reduction in employment and an increase in expenditure of public funds to care for those persons unemployed.

The regional Social Welfare staff, as last year, comprised thirty-one social workers and four supervisors. On March 31st, 1956, they carried a case load of 11,202. As last year, there were seven administrative offices (five Provincial and two municipal). Table I shows the distribution of the case load by category of services among the seven offices.

Table I.—Analysis of Case Load¹ by Major Categories of Services in the District Administrative Offices of Region I as at March 31st, 1956

Category	Alberni	Courtenay	Duncan	Nanaimo	Saanich	Victoria City	Victoria District	Total
Family Service.....	38	78	24	70	—	1	48	259
Mothers' Allowance.....	1	1	1	5	3	18	—	29
Social Allowance.....	115	186	151	356	150	516	230	1,704
Blind Persons' Allowance.....	2	5	7	14	9	31	11	79
Old-age Assistance.....	103	146	155	250	137	411	175	1,377
Old Age Security.....	309	537	474	1,039	988	2,161	1,003	6,511
Disabled Persons' Allowance.....	6	25	7	28	16	35	21	138
Child Welfare.....	99	212	148	243	—	—	113	815
Institutions and other.....	17	44	38	37	27	78	49	290
Totals.....	690	1,234	1,005	2,042	1,330	3,251	1,650	11,202

¹ Case load is the total of family units and shared services.

As in past years, the elderly-citizen group commanded a big share of social-worker time in processing applications for Old-age Assistance, B.C. bonus and health services for Old Age Security cases, and assisting in securing sheltered care. Applications for financial aid continued quite actively from the unemployable persons and the unemployed employable group, including transients. During the year Provincial and municipal governments in this region expended a sum of \$1,125,272.84 in direct financial aid to destitute families and single individuals, with the Provincial Government paying 80 per cent of the costs for municipal cases and 100 per cent for Provincial responsibilities, as determined under the "Residence and Responsibility Act."

Requests for services under child welfare legislation and for family services were relatively high, and within this group were found the most complex and time-consuming problems, in dealing with the unmarried mothers, the placing of children for adoption, completing adoption reports on adopting parents, finding foster homes for children, and dealing with children as under the "Protection of Children Act."

It is indeed pleasing to report that bed accommodation for elderly persons needing sheltered care was increased during the year. Reference is made to Glacier Home at Comox. This very fine home was made possible through contributions from persons in the community in the whole northern section of the Island. Not only was financial aid supplied, but also a great number of man-days of volunteer labour. The Provincial Government also contributed. This home is now operated by the City of Courtenay.

It is gratifying to report that communities in the region which have not as yet any established homes for elderly persons, or low-cost housing units, have, over the past few years, become conscious that long-time residents of their communities, for lack of suitable accommodation, must leave the area to get the accommodation where it is available. This consciousness has brought local groups together, anxious to assist in meeting the need on a local level. At this time two new projects are under way which, when completed, will provide domiciliary care accommodation for 120 elderly persons. Reference is made to a private hospital being established in Comox and a nursing home at Colwood. The residents of the Alberni Valley are well on their way to establishing a low-cost housing unit. A committee, known as the "Alberni Valley Senior Citizens' Committee," has been formed under the "Societies Act," and this Committee has raised, or has been pledged, the sum of over \$10,000 from citizens in the community for this purpose. The people of Nanaimo, also Qualicum, Coombs, and Parksville area, are in the organizational stage. The Act passed in March, 1955, respecting housing for elderly citizens, whereby financial aid is available to non-profit organizations, certainly has given encouragement to committees.

Social workers over the past year have constantly found the problem of an elderly person unable to care for himself physically and financially and in need of custodial care. The problems of the aged encompass many fields with which the social worker has to cope: (a) The fear of the pensioner to change of domicile; (b) possibility of estrangement from relatives, friends, and environment; and (c) loss of independence financially and loss of social activities. These the social worker strives to overcome. Generally speaking, once the move is made the pensioner finds himself in an atmosphere of comfort and companionable association and later he realizes "security in care" is his.

During the year the Provincial and municipal governments paid over \$300,000 in this region for care of persons in nursing and boarding homes. As at March 31st, 1956, there were 481 persons located in these types of homes for whom the Branch contributed toward maintenance costs.

In this region there are twenty-three municipalities (eight cities, five district municipalities, and ten villages). The population in the organized areas, according to the 1951 Census, totals 146,108. There has been no change in the administration of welfare services within these organized areas. Victoria City and the Municipality of Saanich operate amalgamated social welfare offices. The two governments, Provincial and municipal, share equally in the costs of social workers' salaries, while the remaining twenty-one municipalities pay the Provincial Social Welfare Branch 15 cents *per capita* for the carrying-out of the welfare programme within the individual municipalities. Seven villages are exempt from payment for welfare services, due to small land-tax revenue. Table II shows the status of the areas in the region (under the "Social Assistance Act" regarding social welfare administration and also figures on population) and welfare case loads in the area:—

Table II.—Analysis of Case Loads¹ in the Municipalities of Region I as Related to the Administrative Plan (Section 6 of the Regulations under the "Social Assistance Act"), as at March 31st, 1956.

Area	Population, 1951 Census	Welfare Services		Welfare Case Load
		Per Capita Plan	Amalga- mated Plan	
Village of Campbell River.....	1,986	×	---	74
City of Cumberland.....	971	×	---	43
City of Courtenay.....	2,553	×	---	123
City of Port Alberni.....	7,845	×	---	233
City of Alberni.....	3,323	×	---	148
City of Nanaimo.....	7,196	×	---	817
City of Ladysmith.....	2,094	×	---	92
Municipality of North Cowichan.....	6,665	×	---	297
City of Duncan.....	2,784	×	---	173
Village of Lake Cowichan.....	1,628	×	---	49
Village of Qualicum Beach.....	771	×	---	15
Municipality of Esquimalt.....	10,153	×	---	229
Municipality of Central Saanich.....	2,069	×	---	90
Municipality of Oak Bay.....	11,960	×	---	275
Municipality of Saanich.....	28,481	---	×	1,330
City of Victoria.....	51,331	---	×	3,251
Village of Alert Bay.....	638	---	---	---
Village of Comox.....	714	---	---	---
Village of Parksville.....	882	---	---	---
Village of Sidney.....	1,035	---	---	---
Village of Tofino.....	302	---	---	---
Village of Ucluelet.....	444	---	---	---
Village of Zeballos.....	283	---	---	---
Case load in organized territory.....	---	---	---	7,239
Case load in unorganized territory.....	---	---	---	3,963
Total case load for region.....	---	---	---	11,202

¹ Case loads are the total of family units and shared services.

As in the past, the social worker operating with Government Welfare boat (a 40-foot craft) M.V. "Shiely" has continued to give social welfare services to persons residing in the difficult-to-reach areas in the northern section of the region. Every effort has been made to give residents living in these isolated areas coverage for welfare services. However, with such a widely scattered area, only quantity coverage could be given. The skipper and social worker travelled some 6,000 nautical miles in journeying to these outside areas. Records show there were approximately 300 families or individuals listed for services in these areas. In common with more populated areas, the welfare problems were identical, such as applications for Old-age Assistance and Old Age Security bonus, care of the aged, adoption of children, protection of children, etc.

During the year the Branch has received the utmost co-operation from all municipalities. The staffs of each administrative office have been loyal to the Branch and understanding of the problems of the persons needing services.

I do wish to conclude this report with a comment of appreciation to the clerical staff, clerks, clerk-stenographers, and senior stenographers, who have given yeoman service during the past year.

Respectfully submitted.

E. L. RIMMER,
Regional Administrator.

REGION II

I beg to submit the following report of the activities of the Social Welfare Branch in Region II for the fiscal year 1955-56:—

The population increase in this region has continued during the fiscal year, with the largest increases shown in the metropolitan area of Greater Vancouver. There were no

changes in the regional boundaries during the year, but office space was made available to the social worker in the Sechelt area by the courtesy of the Health Branch in that area. This has enabled the worker to provide a better service to that district.

Following is a comparison of total case loads for the region by categories as administered by the divisions of the Branch as at March 31st, 1955, and March 31st, 1956:—

*Comparison of Case Load¹ by Categories as at March 31st
for the Years 1955 and 1956*

Category of Service	Mar. 31, 1955	Mar. 31, 1956
Family Division—		
Family Service	303	312
Mothers' Allowance	225	185
Social Allowance	5,956	4,543
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Divisional totals	6,484	5,040
Old-age Division—		
Old-age Assistance and Blind		
Persons' Allowance	4,063	3,913
Old Age Security bonus	13,724	14,303
Disability Allowance	20	378
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Divisional totals	17,807	18,594
Child Welfare Division—		
Adoption homes pending	130	140
Adoption homes approved	68	69
Children in adoption homes	190	187
Children in care	229	236
Foster homes pending	62	71
Foster homes approved	158	172
Protection of children	51	65
Unmarried parents, children of	254	261
Special services	8	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Divisional totals	1,150	1,207
Other divisions—Tuberculosis, Child Guidance Clinic, Crease Clinic, Provincial Mental Hospital, Welfare Institutions		
	166	168
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Regional totals	25,607	25,009

¹ Case load is the number of family units.

It is to be noted that there was a notable decrease in total case load throughout the region and that the decrease is chiefly in the categories of Family Service, Mothers' Allowance, and Social Allowance. Increases are shown in the Old-age Division and Child Welfare Division cases. The decreases can be accounted for in part by the workers' careful screening of the case loads in the categories noted. This was made possible by the division of case loads in some of the larger municipal and district offices, giving the workers carrying the social assistance categories adequate time to carefully assess applications and to carry through adequate follow-up while allowances were in pay. The reduction in actual numbers of cases does not mean that the workers' case loads have been lessened. There has been a noticeable trend in all offices, both municipal and district, in the demand for more casework services in all categories. This

involves workers' time, and the total volume of work has actually increased rather than decreased.

The largest categorical case load in the region is in the Old-age Division, which has increased 787 during the year. It is felt that the senior citizens require help with their many problems, and special workers who deal entirely with the old-age categories have been appointed in the majority of district and municipal offices throughout the region. The following summaries of cases dealing with problems of senior citizens are submitted to illustrate services being given:—

- (a) Mrs. X., a pensioner, 75 years of age, was deserted by her husband and left to look after herself. She was able to manage for several years on her own, but eventually had to move in with her son and his family. This disrupted the family household in that Mrs. X. was demanding of attention and was failing in health. The social worker helped the son with arrangements for admission to a boarding home. Mrs. X. stayed in the boarding home for three months and returned on her own initiative to her son's home. The younger children in the home bothered Mrs. X., and family relationships deteriorated to the extent that immediate plans for Mrs. X.'s removal had to be made. The social worker was able to place Mrs. X. temporarily with a friend, pending screening of her application to another boarding home. During this interval the social worker visited Mrs. X. several times and discussed with her the new boarding home. She was able to interest Mrs. X. to the extent that she agreed to move to the boarding home, where she has remained for the past eighteen months.
- (b) Mr. and Mrs. Y. are both in receipt of Old Age Security. Mr. Y. is deaf and Mrs. Y. is bothered with arthritis. The couple were having difficulty in looking after themselves, yet both were fearful of giving up their home and entering a boarding home. The social worker, with a knowledge of the community resources, was able to arrange for friends to take turns in assisting with the housework. The local Boy Scout troop took over the responsibility of keeping the wood-box filled for the couple. The social worker was able to arrange for a part-time housekeeper to go into the home three hours a day to do the heavy household chores and to prepare dinner for the couple. The married children were encouraged to meet the expense of the housekeeper. The worker visits regularly and, in co-operation with the district nurse, is continuing to watch the situation in case the health of either partner deteriorates further. This service to date has saved the Government the expense of boarding- and nursing-home care and, what is more important, has enabled this couple to remain in their own home and district.
- (c) Mrs. M. was widowed at age 74. Prior to her marriage she had been a nurse. She was still in good health and able to look after herself. Following her husband's death she became despondent and her health failed to the extent that she had to be hospitalized. She maintained she was too old to be of any use to society and that the sooner she passed away, the better it would be. The community asked the social worker to visit. The worker, over a period of several weeks, encouraged Mrs. M. to consider her nursing skills. People in the community were encouraged to consult Mrs. M. with their minor ailments. The local doctor became interested in the case through referral of the social worker. He agreed to use Mrs. M. on any case he considered her capable of handling. Mrs. M. is now back in her own home and has found that she can be of service to her neighbours. Because of her part-time earnings her bonus

was reduced, but she knows that when her earnings cease she will be eligible for full bonus again. In the meantime she is happy and contented and is a useful member of society.

The above examples were used specifically because they illustrate casework services with senior citizens that do not deal with financial eligibility. Too often it is assumed that the only service the public agency has to offer is in the financial category. This type of case also illustrates the time social workers are prepared to spend in dealing with the problems of the aged.

Medical science, through research, is steadily increasing the life-span of the human species. Social work must be equally alert to this increase in the life-span of people and be ready with adequate services and programmes to make elderly people's lives happy and useful ones. Public welfare agencies must take the initiative in establishing such programmes in all communities.

During the fiscal year fourteen hearings before a Board of Review were held in this region, at the request of the Director of Welfare, to deal with applicants for Social Allowance who had requested a hearing. Appreciation for the time given is hereby acknowledged to the Board members; Dr. Stewart Murray, Medical Health Officer, Vancouver City; and the respective member appointed at each hearing to represent Vancouver City.

On October 13th and 14th, 1956, a regional staff meeting was held in the City of Vancouver. Present for the official opening was Alderman Mrs. Anna E. Sprott, of the City of Vancouver. The theme of the meeting was "Financial Assistance in Public Welfare." Mr. A. Abrahamson, B.A., M.S.W., of the School of Social Work, was the discussion leader. All who attended felt this opportunity of discussing common problems was of great value in meeting the day-to-day problems that are faced by social worker, district supervisor, and welfare administrator.

The Regional Administrator acted as a Provincial Government appointed board member on the following private agencies during the year: Alcoholism Foundation of British Columbia, Canadian National Institute for the Blind (British Columbia Division), the Narcotic Addiction Foundation of British Columbia, and the Disaster Committee of the Canadian Red Cross Society. This opportunity of working closely with these agencies helped considerably in dealing with similar problems met in the day-to-day work of the public welfare agency. In addition, as a member of the Board of the Old-age Assistance Division, the Regional Administrator attended the twice-monthly meetings of the Board and acted as Chairman of the Board prior to the appointment of a new Chairman.

During the year the Assistant Regional Administrator, in co-operation with the Medical Services Division, screened sixty-two applications for admission to the Western Society for Rehabilitation and the Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society. These were cases in which the Provincial Government assumes the total cost of remedial training or shared on the 80-20 basis with the responsible municipality. The Assistant Regional Administrator also acted as a member of the Welfare Institutions Board. In addition, he also acted as chairman of the several tribunals held during the year at the request of the Old-age Assistance Board to establish the age of applicants without sufficient documentary proof of age. The time spent on each tribunal, hearing the applicant's story and sorting the details into a pattern to assist the person establish age, is again indicative of the service that the Branch gives to assist senior citizens. Many of the applicants need an interpreter, but every piece of evidence that can assist the client is given careful consideration.

Nursing-home cases continued to be a problem in this area. The demands for this service always seems to exceed the supply. Some forty-three extra nursing-home beds were made available during the fiscal year, but more are needed. Plans for two more private nursing homes were under way at the end of the fiscal year.

The unemployment situation continues to be a problem in this area. The continued building boom in the Greater Vancouver area attracts many single men who arrive in the city, work for two or three months, and then find themselves unemployed. The Vancouver City Social Service Department must screen all such applicants, which upsets the regular routine of that office. Meetings to discuss this problem are scheduled for the summer months, and it is hoped that a solution can be evolved to meet the problem and to allow the regular progress of other work.

Acknowledgment is given to the co-operation always so willingly given by the municipal and private agencies. Local organizations throughout the region have assisted in many cases where immediate emergencies have to be met. Public health personnel are always readily available to assist in the health problems in the many cases throughout the districts. Social workers are appreciative of the co-operation of the local public health nurses.

Constant staff changes continue to be a major problem in this region. Ways and means, as it is being done at top level, must be explored at the local level to encourage staff to remain on the job so that an uninterrupted service of a high calibre can be maintained in the Branch.

Respectfully submitted.

R. TALBOT,
Regional Administrator.

REGION III

I beg to submit the following report on the activities of the Social Welfare Branch in Region III for the fiscal year 1955-56:—

As reported last year, there was a continued increase in population. There were no changes in the regional boundaries during the year, no new offices opened, and no additional staff appointed.

This year annual reports detailing the work of the Social Welfare Branch in each local area were presented to thirteen of the fourteen cities, municipalities, and villages for whom the Social Welfare Branch provides public welfare services at a cost of 15 cents *per capita*. These reports were delivered at the Council or Commission meetings by the Regional Administrator and the district supervisor and social worker concerned. Considerable interest in public welfare and the various services given in each area was shown by the various authorities.

Following is a comparison of total case loads in the region as at March 31st, 1955, and March 31st, 1956:—

*Comparison of Case Load¹ by Categories for Fiscal Years 1955 and 1956
and Percentage of Increase or Decrease in Region III*

Category of Service	Mar. 31, 1955	Mar. 31, 1956	Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-)
Family Service.....	305	313	+2.6
Mothers' Allowance.....	27	15	-44.4
Social Allowance.....	1,161	1,233	+6.2
	----- 1,188	----- 1,248	+5.1
Blind Persons' Allowance.....	70	62	
Old-age Assistance.....	982	992	
Old Age Security bonus.....	3,067	3,153	
Disabled Persons' Allowance.....	21	130	
	----- 4,140	----- 4,337	+4.8
Adoption homes pending.....	101	112	
Adoption homes approved.....	97	100	
Children in adoption homes.....	129	103	
Children in care.....	324	344	
Foster homes pending.....	71	85	
Foster homes approved.....	217	214	
Protection of children.....	33	30	
Unmarried parents, children of.....	100	93	
Special services.....	3	9	
	----- 1,075	----- 1,090	+1.4
Tuberculosis Division.....	36	30	
Child Guidance Clinic.....	11	13	
Crease Clinic.....	16	16	
Provincial Mental Hospital.....	30	18	
The Woodlands School.....	-----	3	
Collections.....	22	20	
Hospital clearance.....	1	-----	
Provincial Home.....	-----	2	
Provincial Infirmary.....	-----	1	
Welfare institutions.....	28	35	
	----- 144	----- 138	-4.2
Totals.....	6,852	7,126	+4.0

¹ Case load is the total of family units and shared services.

As can be seen from the above, there was a total increase of 274 cases of all categories during the year. This represents a 4-per-cent increase in total case load and compares with a 3.9-per-cent increase the previous fiscal year. During the past two years there has been an increase in the total case load of 531 cases, an amount equal to the average case loads of two social workers, although there has been no increase in staff. The increased work has been handled partly by careful rearrangement of case loads, and an additional social worker is required to carry the balance. A further indication of the greater amount of work completed is found in the fact that there were 3,578 new, reopened, and transferred-in cases, and 3,304 closed and transferred-out cases, an increase of 18.1 per cent over the previous year.

It will be noted that there is an increase of 6.2 per cent in Social Allowance. This increase would appear to be in line with the over-all increase in population. It was less than one-half the increase which occurred during the previous fiscal year, but would have been greater because of grants to unemployed employables except for the fact that a number of Social Allowance cases were transferred to Disabled Persons' Allowance.

There was considerably more assistance granted to unemployed employable persons during the winter months than there was in the previous year. In March of 1955, twenty-four families and seven single persons received assistance in the total amount of \$1,282.50. During March of 1956, twenty-two families and seventy-two single persons received assistance in the total amount of \$2,333.05. Although there was little change in the amount of grants in the rest of the region between March, 1955, and March, 1956, Kamloops City grants were greatly increased. During March, 1956, eight families and sixty-nine single men received assistance in Kamloops in the total amount of \$1,420.

The above figures reflect the picture as it existed throughout the winter months, during which time a large proportion of the total grants to unemployed employables in

the region were made in Kamloops City. This was principally because Kamloops was the main hiring centre for the region and attracted men seeking employment from the large centres at the Coast. As these job-seekers had frequently been subsisting on a meal-ticket and bed basis before coming to Kamloops, their funds were completely exhausted when they arrived, and they required temporary assistance until they were employed. Of 240 single men who received temporary assistance during the winter months, 75.5 per cent received only one grant which averaged \$9.57, and 83.7 per cent had been in Kamloops less than one month, although 96.3 per cent had been in British Columbia more than one year. It was interesting to note that 83.8 per cent of the men were born in Canada, 9.1 per cent in the United Kingdom or United States, 5 per cent in European countries, and 2.1 per cent did not give their birthplace.

The increase in the blind and old-age categories is also in line with the general increase in population.

It is noted that the child welfare cases, which are largely protective and preventive, did not increase proportionately to the other major categories. It has previously been noted that as the pressure of work increases, there is a natural tendency to provide services to the direct assistance categories at the expense of the protective and preventive services.

There was a decrease in service to the institutions, and it is believed this was largely because more information was being obtained on admission by institutional staff.

During the year an increased interest, on the part of communities, in services to the aged was noted and encouraged at every opportunity by the Social Welfare Branch staff. In Kamloops the senior citizens' low-rental housing programme has made progress. Necessary funds were obtained, the location chosen, and building of the units commenced. The local Social Welfare Branch will be submitting lists of the names of couples who would benefit and be suitable for such housing. This often involves a considerable amount of work for the social worker because, although the couple would have more comforts, a properly constructed home with no heating problem, and would be nearer medical and hospital attention, it is often difficult for them to make the change. The routine of their own home, though often tiring, is familiar to them and not easily given up for greater physical comforts.

In Vernon the Kiwanis Club has been working on a project for a senior citizens' village. This will consist of five units which will provide low-cost rental accommodation for pensioners. Each unit will accommodate four couples, and further units for single persons are included in the plans. Each couple will have a living-room, bedroom, kitchen, and bathroom. Each unit will have a laundry for the four couples in the unit. The proposed rental is \$25 a month. The Vernon City social worker is on the selection committee for those applying for accommodation in this project.

There are two licensed boarding homes for senior citizens in Kelowna, and they are both filled to capacity. There are no nursing homes in the Kelowna area, and the usual practice in this region has been followed; that is, placing people requiring more than boarding-home care in ordinary homes and paying a higher rate. Both the Provincial and municipal social workers have been active in using private welfare organizations and service clubs as resources for providing materially and socially acceptable services to old people. Kelowna has the only visiting home-maker service in the area, and it is frequently made use of by the Social Welfare Branch for those needing the service.

In Penticton there are two boarding homes—one with a capacity of seventy-five persons and one with a capacity of seven persons—and as a result the boarding-home needs are well looked after in that area.

The main development in service to the aged in the Oliver area was the incorporation of the Senior Citizens' Home Group Society on December 22nd, 1955. A \$62,000 building is planned to accommodate twenty-five elderly people. The Social Welfare Branch personnel acted as welfare consultants.

In general throughout the region, the social workers have been able to assist in the planning of community projects to provide services to old people and have been able to assist in and give thought to the remedial aspects of the Social Welfare Branch services to old people.

It is pleasing to report that during 1955-56 community resources have continued to develop throughout the region, and have received all possible encouragement from the Social Welfare Branch staff.

In Kamloops a group which was formed specifically for the distribution of Christmas hampers decided to continue its activities and assist families receiving Social Allowance, the aged group, and border-line families. This assistance was in the form of material goods, such as groceries, fuel, bedding, clothing, and particularly children's shoes. It was recognized that families receiving Social Allowance do exist at a minimum level, and if they have been on allowance for a number of years, their home furnishings and clothing supplies are depleted. This group recognized this problem, and with much enthusiasm they gave a great deal of practical help to families. They were most co-operative in accepting guidance in respect to the casework problems involved.

It is regretted that there are still no boarding homes or nursing homes in the Kamloops district. The need for foster homes there steadily increased. Because of the time involved in travelling, most of the children are placed in Kamloops or immediate vicinity. It is hoped that if and when the staff have the time, they will be able to develop foster homes in areas farther away from the district office.

In February, 1956, Youth Guidance Committees were established in Armstrong and Vernon. These Committees are in addition to those now operating in Kamloops, Kelowna, Penticton, and Oliver. The Committees consisted of representatives of the Public Health Department, Social Welfare Branch, the Probation Officer, the school guidance counsellors, and school principals.

The purposes of the Committees were to present for consideration and discussion the problems of any child with whom any member of the Committee was working, and on which any member might wish the thinking and help of the other members. It was thought that the direction of these Committees would be preventive in that by co-ordinating the resources and knowledge of the various agencies a unified approach could be developed to assist with the problems of any particular child.

At first the cases brought before the Committees were boys and girls in higher school grades with outstanding behaviour problems. However, there appeared later a tendency to consider those in lower grades who showed some problems but as yet had not come to the attention of all the agencies. Much benefit will be gained from these meetings from the point of view of organizing community resources to meet the needs of children. They also provide an opportunity for interpreting casework services and obtaining a greater understanding of the services of other agencies.

The Social Welfare Branch in Vernon has been actively participating in the Association for Retarded Children, which has been operating a day-school since September, 1955, with approximately twelve children in attendance. This is a new and very important resource in this area, and several children of families receiving Social Allowance have been in attendance.

In the early part of the year a series of four informative lectures for approved adopting parents awaiting placement of children were given by the Vernon Social Welfare Branch. These lectures covered in a broad sense the needs and development of the child. The first two lectures were on the "Emotional Development of Children" and "Problems Concerning Adoption," and these were given by a social worker. The last two lectures were given by public health nurses and were on the "Physical Development of the Child" and "Care and Feeding of Babies and the Pre-school Child." Six adopting couples awaiting placement attended these lectures, and many favourable comments have been received.

In last year's report, mention was made of Miss *B.* who received help to attend a vocational training course. Prior to starting the course, she had been given considerable counselling services by this office to prepare her for retraining. The Regional Administrator is now pleased to report that she started training in June, 1955, and finished in March, 1956. She then obtained employment and is now very satisfied and happy in her job and personal life. While she was taking her course, the staff had continuing contacts with her for the purpose of encouraging and supporting her in her course and helping her with her plans upon discharge. The investment of time and money in this case would appear well justified, as Miss *B.* has become self-supporting and a happy member of society.

Another typical rehabilitation case was a young man who attended business college under Schedule R. Prior to being accepted for training, he had received treatment from the Western Society for Rehabilitation as he was physically handicapped. While he was taking his business course, social assistance was granted to him for comforts allowance, as the grant under Schedule R had not included anything for comforts. He also required assistance in obtaining clothing. Upon completion of his course, in which he had made good progress, he experienced great difficulty in obtaining employment, as prospective employers were reluctant to consider him because of his disability. He was granted assistance for two months until he was able to obtain employment, and during this time and his period of training he was given encouragement and support by the staff in his plans to be self-supporting. He is now working and is earning \$140 a month.

In closing I would like to thank all those persons, both lay and professional, who have made possible a brighter future for many of the valley's citizens and particularly those good neighbours who have concerned themselves with the problems of ageing and have helped senior citizens to help themselves.

Respectfully submitted.

R. I. STRINGER,
Regional Administrator.

REGION IV

I beg to submit herewith the annual report of the activities of the Social Welfare Branch in Region IV for the fiscal year 1955-56.

The geographical boundaries of the region remain the same and no new Provincial offices have been opened. Trail City has undertaken its own welfare administration as of March 15th, and was successful in finding a qualified worker to administer its social services. The case load in the city is fairly heavy and very active, so the city is looking ahead to the possibility in the future that an additional worker may be needed. The effect on the region has been that for the present the Trail district office social-work staff has been reduced by one, but the increased population in the whole area has created more work for all concerned.

The census taken this year will no doubt show an increase in the whole region, with the result that offices will be giving services to more people. This increase will also affect some of the villages, and next year it is anticipated that one or two will become responsible for their share of welfare costs.

In the earlier months of the year the economic situation was not too bright, but as the year progressed it improved, and the fall and winter months were better than the previous year. At the end of the fiscal year, conditions were quite good; employment was at a high level, and it was hoped this would continue for some time. It is anticipated that for the coming winter the number of unemployed employables will be less.

In the Grand Forks-Greenwood area there is hope that the exploratory and development work being done by three or four large mining companies will result in the reopening

of the Phoenix area. Greenwood is experiencing a house-building boom, as at the present time most of the people engaged in this work are living in Greenwood. Expectations are high for increased population, increased business activity, and increased stability in employment.

On June 20th, 1955, a disastrous flood at Sandon and neighbouring area did a great deal of damage. The Canadian Pacific Railway which runs from Nakusp to New Denver and then on to Kaslo was washed out in places. In Sandon itself many of the buildings were destroyed, and at the present time there is no indication they will be replaced, as mining activity in that area has lessened. The railway company considered abandoning this line, and the matter, through local Boards of Trade, was referred to the Board of Railway Commissioners. At the present time there is no service from New Denver to Kaslo.

The British Columbia Power Commission has extended its services south from Nakusp to New Denver, which has been of real benefit to local lumbering industries and others. The West Kootenay Power Company is considering extending its services in the lower part of the valley, and by the end of the year unemployment was practically non-existent in the Slocan Valley. At times there was a shortage of workers in the valley, but with few exceptions all labour requirements were met.

At Trail, employment is at a good level due to the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company, with its usual high output.

The Nelson district in the earlier months of the year was hit through lack of employment opportunities, due partly to weather conditions, but this cleared up later when the demand for workers increased.

The same applied to the East Kootenay, where opportunities and the chances for jobs increased as the whole economy of the area improved. At first the mines at Fernie, Natal, and Michel worked fewer shifts each week, but by the end of the year production showed that the annual average number of tons produced was fairly normal. Practically the whole economy of the Fernie area depends on the activity of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company, even though there are other activities, such as logging, lumbering, and some dairying. Like all other areas of the region, the East Kootenay was a bit late in moving, but as the year progressed, the activity increased greatly. The Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company at Kimberley maintained a good level of employment, and the city, when the present census returns are in, will no doubt show an increase in population. The company closed its fertilizer plant at Kimberley, affecting 200 employees, some of whom were changed to other jobs.

The whole outlook at present for the region is promising, and it is hoped these indications will prove to be reality.

On April 1st, 1955, the total case load was 5,145, and as of March 31st, 1956, it was 5,111, showing a small decrease of thirty-four cases.

The largest percentage of the case load consists of Old-age Assistance, Old Age Security with bonus, Blind Assistance, with a few Disabled Persons' Allowance. This covers approximately 60 per cent of the whole load, and it is a very time-consuming one. As the population becomes more of an ageing one, due to life expectancy increasing, etc., the old-age case load increases. In the Kootenays the processing of the applications of Doukhobors, practically none of whom have birth certificates and of whom many do not speak English, makes the services of an interpreter more often necessary than not. This region has tried both the specialized worker doing old-age cases only and workers carrying the generalized load (all categories inclusive of old-age cases). The practice of using a specialized worker has both advantages and disadvantages, but further experience will show whether the advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

This old-age group is an increasing responsibility. The need for nursing- and boarding-home care is growing, as well as the need of housing for them. As far as nursing-home care is concerned, the Branch is fortunate in having Mount St. Francis in

Nelson, which cares for an average of ninety-eight people throughout the year. The Nelson Hostel for the Aged Men, with a capacity of eleven men, gives good care, and the patients also receive additional care from such organizations as the I.O.D.E., service clubs, etc., which adds greatly to their enjoyment. There is, too, the odd private boarding home throughout the region. In last year's report, mention was made that the Board of Mount St. Francis was considering adding another story to the building, but to date nothing definite has been done, although it is certain every consideration will be given to it.

With regard to housing, Cranbrook is making a drive to establish a housing project for this group, built in memory of the late Dr. Green, and it is hoped they will be successful. Trail also has given much thought to a housing project, and it is hoped they will be able to finalize their plans. Kimberley plans to enlarge its Pioneers' Home. It has given its residents excellent accommodation for some years, but is not large enough. Nelson also has an active committee working to this end. A housing project is more feasible in large centres of population. In smaller areas with fewer people and fewer resources, such a project is difficult to carry through as it places a heavy burden on the few.

However, the work with older citizens is a very rewarding one. As an example of this, the staff wishes to cite the following:—

- (1) This case concerns an old man, aged 81, living in his own home, who has been in receipt of \$60 a month pension and cost-of-living bonus. He has received this form of help since February, 1952. The client has suffered from arthritis for a number of years, and as early as September, 1954, it was noticed that his condition was such that he managed with difficulty. The client has one married daughter living approximately 50 miles away, but the relationship has not been a warm one. The daughter has been willing to help financially, but he has been difficult to get along with and has refused either to live with the daughter or to leave his own place. In October, 1954, he was referred by the doctor, and the worker went out to visit him. He was living in a house that was in a deplorable state, and he was short of fuel. It was thought by the worker that the old man should move to either a boarding home or to a nursing home, but this the client steadfastly refused to do. He also refused to go and live with his daughter, and said that he wished to stay in his own home. The worker saw several of the neighbours, who kindly agreed to help the old fellow with wood and to keep an eye on him. Several weeks later the worker also arranged with the daughter and son-in-law for a visit to the two institutions in Nelson that care for old people. It was thought that if he actually saw the places, some of his fear of giving up his independence to enter a home might diminish. It has been necessary repeatedly to interpret to the small community and to the relatives that the Branch is unable to force people to move. It has been difficult to interpret the social worker's acceptance of the older person's own desires, when it is so obvious that physically the client would be better in some institution. At the end of October the office received a complaint from the neighbours that the client had been wandering the previous evening and seemed to be out of his mind. The following day the worker called and found that the old chap had fallen and hurt his head the previous evening, but that he was now lucid and more determined than ever to remain in his home. Much time was spent talking to the old man, and an arrangement was eventually made, agreeable to him, for him to stay in a small hotel. This lasted several months, but he later returned home. There had been many calls since that time by the neighbours, who were concerned over his

plight and who several times called the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, who had also been to see him. The staff have maintained a close contact and have also been in touch with his daughter numerous times. Early in April the client asked someone to contact his social worker, since he felt ill. The social worker went out and, after some discussion, encouraged the old fellow to come to town in the worker's car and see a doctor. After he was examined, the doctor hospitalized him, and he is now agreeable to entering a nursing home when he is ready to leave hospital. Throughout this difficult case the worker has withstood considerable community pressure, but has always been patient with the client and respected his desire to remain independent in his own home. The client has sensed the worker's helpful attitude and has gradually gained a liking for him. He is thus gradually acquiring sufficient respect for the worker and his opinion, and to accept his suggestion that he enter a nursing home. Had the worker tried to force the issue sooner, it would have only stiffened the client's resistance.

- (2) This is the case of a man who is 67 years of age. He is a widower with a 10-year-old step-daughter. This man had always been active and managed to work for a large electrical company as a carpenter's helper for a year or so past his retirement age by not disclosing his actual age. This illustrates this man's keen desire to avoid retirement and to go on working—a desire heightened by his wish to provide the 10-year-old step-daughter with a good standard of living. In considering the casework necessary to bring service to this case, it is also necessary to explain that this man had a bitterness toward welfare authorities due to some rather harrowing experiences he had with welfare agencies in his earlier years. He was retired in May of 1955, much against his wishes, and, although he was old enough to apply for Old-age Assistance and had discussed this with the office several times, he could not bring himself to accept dependency. However, this client reached the end of his own resources in June and at this time he was issued Social Allowance for himself as well as his step-daughter. He still resided in a rather old home, which he owned, three or four blocks from the city centre. It was not necessary to continue this assistance because he obtained work as a part-time janitor and was able to continue at this occupation for several months. However, he very suddenly suffered a severe heart attack. It was then necessary for him to enter hospital, where he was in an oxygen tent for nearly a month. He has had a grave fear that the 10-year-old step-daughter would be taken into care by the Branch. The social worker in this particular instance was able to locate a housekeeper, who was paid to look after the client's step-daughter whilst the old gentleman was in hospital. Upon discharge, the housekeeper was paid to look after both the client and step-daughter. In addition to this, Social Allowance has been paid to the family while an application for Old-age Assistance is being finalized after considerable difficulty clarifying residence and proof of age, both of which have been difficult in this case because no birth certificate was obtainable and also because the man had moved around the country considerably. It has been possible, through the worker's recognizing the client's independence and fear of welfare help and being sympathetic toward him, to bring the service necessary to this family, at the same time strengthening the regard with which the client views the Branch, so that it has been much easier on the client to receive the help necessary. Without a worker who understood the client's hopes and fears, it would have been impossible

to obtain the necessary details to complete the Old-age Assistance application and the client's life might have been endangered because the heart condition was such that any emotional upset tended to aggravate it. By arranging for a housekeeper in this home, it has been possible to maintain the family as a unit, and this fact is really appreciated by the client.

In March, plans were finalized for the Department of Education to take over administration of the Doukhobor children in custody of the Superintendent of Child Welfare at New Denver. Since that time two new buildings have been added, and the accommodation at the present time appears satisfactory and adequate.

These children remain wards of the Superintendent of Child Welfare, and the social worker appears only as the Superintendent's representative when releases are presented to the Court.

Throughout the year the Branch has had the fullest co-operation from Federal, Provincial, and municipal groups. Service clubs, churches, and other organizations in all districts have been of great help. Through all this co-operation and support, the whole region has benefited. Their assistance and understanding are hereby gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted.

J. W. SMITH,
Regional Administrator.

REGION V

I beg to submit the following annual report of the activities of the Social Welfare Branch in Region V for the fiscal year 1955-56.

Economic growth and population increase in the area continued unabated. The lumbering industry enjoyed an unprecedented level of activity, and construction in most parts of the region increased likewise. This induced an influx of casual labour and strained the housing facilities even more than heretofore. The need and demand for social services naturally increased proportionately.

The following comparison of case loads for the region by categories, as of March, 1955, and March, 1956, gives a picture of the increase in services during the year:—

*Comparison of Case Load¹ by Categories of Region V, as at March 31st
for the Years 1955 and 1956*

Category of Service	Mar. 31, 1955	Mar. 31, 1956
Family Service	323	330
Mothers' Allowance	7	9
Social Allowance	1,015	1,230
	<u>1,022</u>	<u>1,239</u>
Blind Persons' Allowance	67	95
Old-age Assistance	532	522
Old Age Security Bonus	1,407	1,403
	<u>2,006</u>	<u>2,020</u>
Disabled Persons	1	34
<i>Carried forward</i>	<u>3,352</u>	<u>3,623</u>

¹ Case load is the total of family units and shared services.

Category of Service	Mar. 31, 1955	Mar. 31, 1956
<i>Brought forward</i>	3,352	3,623
Adoption homes pending	106	108
Adoption homes approved	38	34
Children in adoption homes	115	134
Children in care	224	318
Foster homes pending	58	74
Foster homes approved	141	191
Protection of children	50	72
Unmarried parents, children of	86	99
Special services	2	8
	820	1,038
Tuberculosis Division	50	41
Child Guidance Clinic	4	6
Crease Clinic	9	4
Provincial Mental Hospital	13	13
The Woodlands School	3	7
Collections	27	37
Hospital clearance	5	4
Provincial Home	6	12
Provincial Infirmary	4	4
Welfare institutions	15	17
	136	145
Totals	4,308	4,806

It will be noted from the foregoing table that case loads in the region increased by 498 during the year. This increase was largest in the Child Welfare Services, in which it amounted to 218 cases, an increase of 26.6 per cent over the previous year. Cases requiring financial assistance through Mothers' Allowances and Social Allowances increased by 217, or 21.2 per cent over last year. It is interesting to note that Old-age Assistance cases only increased by 14, or 0.7 per cent. These three categories of cases, which made up 50.5 per cent of the case load two years ago and 46.6 per cent last year, now comprise only 42.0 per cent of the regional case load.

Communities generally exhibited more and more interest in the problems of the aged. Attached to their homes and the places in which they have lived—no matter how remote and isolated—old people resist the idea of moving away, and frequently insist on remaining where they are, even though the medical care and attention they need are quite unavailable to them. If provision for nursing-home and boarding-home accommodation was made for them in some of the larger northern communities, many who would not move farther away would accept accommodation close by. Several service clubs have undertaken to plan for the accommodation of these people in the North, and some special housing projects will be completed next year.

Services were given to a total of 7,905 cases during the year, there being 4,308 cases open at the beginning of the year and 3,597 new cases added during that period. Of this total, 3,099 services were completed, leaving 4,806 cases open on March 31st, 1956. To meet this demand, the social-work staff was increased to eighteen and an additional district supervisor was appointed. With four supervisors in the region, the administration of services was improved in the far northern area particularly, and no supervisor was responsible for more than two district offices. Reorganization of supervision also included the transfer of the district supervisor from Williams Lake to Quesnel.

Staff turnover is a perennial problem, and seven of the eighteen social workers on staff at March 31st, 1956, were appointees of the previous twelve months. This pattern was even more pronounced in clerical and stenographic staff. This accentuated the difficulties of keeping services at a satisfactory standard and created inordinate pressure of work. Nevertheless, all members of staff responded magnificently and managed to maintain for their clients a reasonable standard of service.

The annual staff meeting for the region was held in Prince George on November 16th, 17th, and 18th. Two main topics, entitled "The Implications of Present Case Loads" and "Improving Practices in Adoptions," were considered. Individual social workers presented papers which served as the bases for discussion in small groups, under the able guidance of the Assistant Director of Welfare and the Superintendent of Child Welfare. The value of the meeting in increasing the social workers' knowledge and ability to help their clients to better effect was acknowledged by all.

Respectfully submitted.

V. H. DALLAMORE,
Regional Administrator.

REGION VI

I beg to submit the annual report of the activities of the Social Welfare Branch in Region VI for the fiscal year 1955-56.

The region continued to serve the area which included the Fraser Valley on both sides of the Fraser River, east of Pattullo Bridge and the Pitt River, and extended to Lytton and the summit of the Hope-Princeton Highway. The region included fast-growing urban areas such as Whalley and Maple Ridge in the western end as well as sparsely populated areas in the eastern portion. In March, 1956, one social worker was required to carry the case load of 260 families who had requested services in that part of the region east of the Township of Chilliwack and extending to Lytton and the summit, while in the Municipality of Surrey seven social workers were required in March to give service to 2,984 individuals and families, nearly one-third of the total regional case load. This is an indication of the fact that while there was steady economic and population growth throughout the region, the spectacular growth has taken place in the western end, which is adjacent to the large urban areas.

Because of this growth it became necessary for the Surrey Social Welfare Department to decentralize, and offices were opened in Whalley and White Rock in addition to the main office at Cloverdale. It was also necessary for two social workers to be added to the regional staff—one at Haney and one at Abbotsford.

A picture of the case loads in each administrative office in the region is given in Table I. The numerical and percentage growth in case loads over the past five years is given in Table II. Tables I and II appear on subsequent pages.

It will be noted in Table II that the regional case load increased by 1,616 cases in the past four years. In looking at the category percentages it is seen that Social Allowance and Mothers' Allowance cases at the end of March, 1956, were 18 per cent of the total case load, as against 15 per cent in 1952, and Old-age Assistance and Blind Persons' Allowance cases had decreased 5 per cent. Despite this latter decrease, services to the aged and blind continued to account for nearly two-thirds of the total services.

Table I.—Case-load¹ Statistics, according to Major Categories, by Administrative Office, in Region VI, as at March 31st, 1956

Administrative Office	Family Service	Social Allowance and Mothers' Allowance	Old-age Assistance and Blind Persons' Allowance	Disabled Persons' Allowance	Child Welfare	Mental Health	Other	Total
Abbotsford ²	25	309	1,095	43	151	10	25	1,658
Chilliwack ³	42	137	473	18	108	5	6	789
Chilliwack ⁴	64	182	445	15	116	5	17	844
Haney ⁵	24	157	480	22	137	2	21	843
Langley ⁶	32	121	617	14	156	5	3	948
Surrey ⁷	57	615	2,000	49	208	3	52	2,984
Total for region ⁸	244	1,521	5,110	161	876	30	124	8,066

¹ Case load is the total of family units and shared services.

² Abbotsford district office has one district supervisor and 4½ social workers serving five *per capita* municipalities, Village of Abbotsford, and unorganized territory.

³ Chilliwack district office has one district supervisor and three social workers serving three *per capita* municipalities and unorganized territory.

⁴ Chilliwack Social Service Department is an amalgamated municipal office and receives supervision from Chilliwack district. It has one municipal administrator and one social worker.

⁵ Haney district office receives supervision from Chilliwack district. It has 3½ social workers serving two *per capita* municipalities and unorganized territory.

⁶ Langley Social Service Department is an amalgamated municipal office and receives supervision from Abbotsford district. It has one municipal administrator and two social workers.

⁷ Surrey Social Welfare Department is an amalgamated municipal office. It has one municipal administrator, one district supervisor, and seven social workers.

⁸ Regional office is in Chilliwack and is the headquarters of the Regional Administrator.

Table II.—Numerical and Percentage Comparison of Regional Case-load¹ Statistics, by Major Category, for the Fiscal Years 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, and 1956, as at March 31st.

Category	1952		1953		1954		1955		1956	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Family Service.....	212	3.0	218	3.0	276	4.0	333	4.0	244	3.0
Social and Mothers' Allowances.....	949	15.0	1,009	15.0	1,223	17.0	1,470	18.0	1,521	18.0
Old-age Assistance and Blind Persons' Allowance.....	4,443	69.0	4,731	69.0	4,838	66.0	5,010	63.0	5,110	64.0
Disabled Persons' Allowance.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	37	0.4	161	2.0
Child Welfare.....	640	10.0	675	10.0	787	11.0	916	12.0	876	11.0
Mental Health.....	93	1.0	86	1.0	40	0.5	46	0.6	30	0.5
Other.....	113	2.0	109	2.0	122	1.5	153	2.0	124	1.5
Totals.....	6,450	100.0	6,828	100.0	7,286	100.0	7,965	100.0	8,066	100.0

¹ Case load is the total of family units and shared services.

The services that were given to these old and sometimes handicapped people ranged from help in the establishment of their eligibility for financial assistance to help with their physical and emotional needs. One old gentleman in his eighties now calls the social worker "his good friend." This came about after he had battled every attempt that was made and finally accomplished to move him from his uninhabitable living-quarters into a private hospital, where he recovered from malnutrition, and finally back into a more liveable shack where he was happy and giving himself better care under the watchful eye of "his good friend." Many such stories could be told despite the fact that meeting legislative requirements leaves the social worker too little time for the social aspects of the services required.

The development of senior-citizen organizations in all of the larger centres was a positive and healthy trend, which indicated that the majority of old folk were able and willing to plan for themselves and to help one another through united effort. Service

clubs played their part, too, as was indicated by the establishment of a Chat-a-way Club for senior citizens in Chilliwack through the efforts of the Soroptomist Club, and the organization, by a local group of women in Abbotsford, of a bargain centre from which good used clothing was sold at a minimum charge.

In the interest of the old folk whom the staff served, there was an evident need for a further working together of community groups and professional social workers, but time and staff limitations made this very difficult. There was a need, too, for further development of boarding-home and private-hospital facilities throughout the region. As at March, 1956, there were six private hospitals, with 173 beds, in the region. A 33-bed private hospital will soon be open for use in Surrey Municipality, but no other private hospitals are being planned as far as it is known. There was an increase in boarding-home facilities during the year of seven homes and 41 beds, making a total of twenty-one homes and 231 beds. Further development of these resources, especially the private home accommodating one or two persons, depends upon staff time available as the finding and studying of these homes is a time-consuming process, but a very necessary one.

It can be seen from Table II that there was an increase of only 101 in the case load as at March 31st, 1956, as compared with the case load at the same time last year. However, 706 more cases were served during the year than in the previous year. This indicated that in many cases the services were completed in a shorter time, probably due to the fact that there was greater stability of staff during the year. Adequate and stable staff undoubtedly produced greater efficiency and economy in service, and every effort was made to use the staff available in a way that produced the best service possible to those seeking help and the most work satisfaction to the social workers giving the help.

In reviewing the child welfare services given during the year, it was found that 525 children were given foster-home care, fifty more than in the previous year. However, the number of children in adoption homes dropped from 241 to 233, and the total child welfare services did not show as large an increase as did the financial services. This was true also of the services given to families and individuals around their personal problems not related to financial stress. This could indicate the staffs were able to meet the needs of those requesting financial service, but were not able to give a preventive service to those cases when the need was less concrete and apparent than financial. Being able to help a mother and father resolve their marital difficulty or have a better understanding of the needs of their children may prevent the need for financial assistance to a deserted wife or the expense of foster-home care for the children. This preventive service is time-consuming but is one which justifies itself through the ultimate saving of dollars and cents to the community.

As in the past, the total staff—clerical and social work—responded well and to the utmost of their ability to the heavy demands made upon them by a constantly growing case load. While all recognized that there were many unmet needs in the community, they believed that with the unstinting help of other community resources, such as the public health department, the schools, the police and Juvenile Courts, and many service organizations, they were able to give a helpful service in the communities in which they have worked.

The working relationships with the municipalities who shared responsibility with the Branch were both pleasant and constructive. While it was not possible for the Regional Administrator to present annual reports to the Councils of the *per capita* municipalities the region served, with the exception of one, she hopes to be able to submit reports to all of these during the coming year.

Respectfully submitted.

(MISS) MARY K. KING,
Regional Administrator.

PART II.—DIVISIONAL ADMINISTRATION

FAMILY DIVISION

I wish to present the report of the Family Division, which is concerned with the services rendered to families and individuals by the Social Welfare Branch under the provisions of the "Social Assistance Act," the "Mothers' Allowances Act," and the Family Service programme, for the fiscal year April 1st, 1955, to March 31st, 1956.

SOCIAL ALLOWANCES SECTION

It is interesting to note that following the end of the previous fiscal year the number of recipients continued to rise for another two months to a new maximum. After May, 1955, the total dropped sharply to the end of November, 1955, and then rose again each month to the end of the fiscal year under review. It is the first year, however, since the implementation of the Old-age Assistance programme that the total number of recipients in the final month of the fiscal year was less than the total in the first month.

The implementation of the "Disabled Persons' Allowances Act" has most likely accounted in part for this, plus the high employment level of the past year.

Another interesting point to note in the comparative figures given below for March, 1954, 1955, and 1956, is that, although the number of heads of families and dependents increased, the total of single recipients had decreased by over a thousand, or nearly 14 per cent.

CASE LOAD

The comparative statement for the month of March for the past three years is as follows:—

Table I.—Case Load and Total Number of Recipients

	Mar., 1954	Mar., 1955	Mar., 1956
Heads of families.....	3,327	3,688	3,730
Dependents.....	8,252	9,475	9,761
Single recipients.....	5,908	7,372	6,346
Case load.....	9,235	11,060	10,076
Dependents.....	8,252	9,475	9,761
Total number of recipients.....	17,487	20,535	19,837

Table II.—Case Load and Total Number of Recipients on a Monthly Basis

	Heads of Families	Dependents	Single Recipients	Total
April, 1955.....	3,756	9,634	7,514	20,904
May, 1955.....	3,789	9,655	7,627	21,071
June, 1955.....	3,690	9,376	7,263	20,329
July, 1955.....	3,501	8,733	6,810	19,044
August, 1955.....	3,329	8,381	5,986	17,696
September, 1955.....	3,256	8,160	5,796	17,212
October, 1955.....	3,158	8,006	5,750	16,914
November, 1955.....	3,230	8,160	5,974	17,364
December, 1955.....	3,521	9,287	6,218	19,026
January, 1956.....	3,627	9,445	6,400	19,472
February, 1956.....	3,664	9,599	6,345	19,608
March, 1956.....	3,730	9,761	6,346	19,837

Of the total number of recipients of assistance in the Province in March, 1956—namely, 19,837—the totals according to regions are as follows:—

Table III.—Regional Totals of Individuals in Receipt of Assistance in March, 1956

Provincial District Office		Organized Territory (Municipal)		
Region I—				
Alberni	71	Alberni City	44	
Courtenay	358	Campbell River	26	
Duncan	114	Courtenay	41	
Nanaimo	402	Central Saanich	25	
Victoria	235	Cumberland	19	
		Duncan	30	
		Esquimalt	71	
		Ladysmith	22	
		Lake Cowichan	13	
		Nanaimo	205	
		North Cowichan	107	
		Oak Bay	17	
		Port Alberni	83	
		Qualicum Beach	1	
		Saanich	159	
		Victoria	615	
	<u>1,180</u>		<u>1,478</u>	2,658
Region II—				
New Westminster	43	Burnaby	585	
Vancouver	166	Coquitlam	221	
Westview	53	Delta	119	
		New Westminster	539	
		North Vancouver City	155	
		North Vancouver District	143	
		Port Coquitlam	56	
		Port Moody	43	
		Powell River	8	
		Richmond	237	
		Vancouver	4,437	
		West Vancouver	65	
	<u>262</u>		<u>6,608</u>	6,870
Region III—				
Kamloops	442	Armstrong	14	
Kelowna	329	Coldstream	23	
Penticton	250	Enderby	18	
Salmon Arm	99	Glenmore	18	
Vernon	355	Kamloops	275	
		Kelowna	124	
		Merritt	30	
		North Kamloops	46	
		Oliver	22	
		Peachland	13	
		Penticton	189	
		Princeton	34	
		Revelstoke	14	
		Salmon Arm City	21	
		Salmon Arm District	67	
		Spallumcheen	38	
		Summerland	42	
		Vernon	77	
	<u>1,475</u>		<u>1,065</u>	2,540
Region IV—				
Cranbrook	350	Castlegar	28	
Creston	232	Cranbrook	108	
Fernie	40	Creston Village	53	
Grand Forks	90	Fernie	42	
Nelson	661	Grand Forks	28	
New Denver	138	Greenwood	28	
Trail	129	Kaslo	4	
		Kimberley	55	
		Nelson	145	
		Rossland	37	
		Slocan	18	
		Trail	122	
		Warfield	10	
	<u>1,640</u>		<u>678</u>	2,318

Table III.—Regional Totals of Individuals in Receipt of Assistance in March, 1956—Continued

<i>Provincial District Office</i>		<i>Organized Territory (Municipal)</i>	
Region V—		Dawson Creek Village	148
Pouce Coupe	425	Fort St. John	37
Prince George	503	Prince George	213
Prince Rupert	103	Prince Rupert	252
Quesnel	53	Quesnel	86
Smithers	191	Smithers	39
Terrace	204	Williams Lake	15
Williams Lake	97		
	<u>1,576</u>		<u>790</u>
			2,366
Region VI—		Chilliwack City	100
Abbotsford	70	Chilliwack Township	365
Chilliwack	169	Hope	56
Haney		Kent	12
		Langley	200
		Langley City	43
		Maple Ridge	247
		Matsqui	265
		Mission District	138
		Mission Village	66
		Pitt Meadows	36
		Sumas	91
		Surrey	1,227
	<u>239</u>		<u>2,846</u>
			3,085
			<u>19,837</u>

The following are the approximate percentages of the total case load by regions: Region I, 13 per cent; Region II, 35 per cent; Region III, 13 per cent; Region IV, 12 per cent; Region V, 12 per cent; and Region VI, 15 per cent.

The distribution of recipient case load between organized and unorganized areas indicates a change this year, with 67.9 per cent living in municipal territory and 32.1 per cent living in Provincial territory, as against 70.4 per cent and 29.6 per cent respectively in March, 1955.

When compared on the basis of legal residence determined under the "Residence and Responsibility Act," the distribution is as follows:—

Table IV.—Legal Residence of Social Allowance Recipients

	Mar., 1954	Mar., 1955	Mar., 1956
Municipal responsibilities.....	10,131	11,790	10,882
Provincial responsibilities.....	7,356	8,745	8,955
Totals.....	17,487	20,535	19,837

Table V.—Comparative Table (Percentages) of Social Allowance Recipients Based on Legal Residence

	Mar., 1954	Mar., 1955	Mar., 1956
Municipal responsibilities.....	57.93	57.41	54.86
Provincial responsibilities.....	42.07	42.59	45.14

A study of the above tables shows that the proportion of the total recipient case load who are Provincial responsibilities, and for whom the Province pays 100 per cent of the cost of Social Allowance, has risen by over 2.5 per cent over last year. The percentage of municipal responsibilities has decreased accordingly.

Following is a statement of expenditures made by the Social Welfare Branch during the fiscal year under review for Social Allowances, medical services, and other charges:—

Table VI.—Expenditures by the Province for Social Allowances, Medical Services, etc.

	Fiscal Year 1953-54	Fiscal Year 1954-55	Fiscal Year 1955-56
1. Cases who are the responsibility of a municipality (80 per cent paid by the Province).....	\$1,959,600.06	\$2,588,455.80	\$2,626,760.81
2. Cases who are the sole responsibility of the Province (100 per cent paid by the Province).....	1,615,348.10	2,241,850.58	2,350,451.69
3. Repatriation, transportation within the Province, nursing- and boarding-home care (other than tuberculosis), special allowances and grants.....	1,102,455.93	1,262,185.21	1,420,208.51
4. Emergency payments, such as where a family may lose its home by fire or similar circumstances.....	39,009.41	39,048.25	52,891.24
5. Municipal and Provincial cases—			
(a) Tuberculosis, boarding-, nursing-, and private-home cases.....	376,412.30	444,882.01	402,850.12
(b) Transportation of tuberculosis cases.....	3,464.24	4,341.91	2,638.57
(c) Comforts allowances for tuberculosis cases.....	19,729.00	16,025.30	11,991.16
6. Hospitalization of social assistance cases ¹			19,319.36
	\$5,116,019.04	\$6,596,789.06	\$6,887,111.46
Hospitalization of social assistance cases ¹	3,883,070.37	20,597.31	
7. Administration and operation of project and pavilion for Japanese at New Denver.....	44,556.58	53,816.85	38,600.41
8. Medical services and drugs.....	1,707,339.76	1,947,832.23	2,208,252.70
Totals.....	\$10,750,985.75	\$8,619,035.45	\$9,133,964.57

¹ Effective April 1st, 1954, hospitalization costs (including co-insurance) for Social Allowance cases paid by British Columbia Hospital Insurance Service. Expenditures under above heading include only short-stay costs for Social Allowance cases, Provincial Government share of hospitalization costs for immigrants, and children's hospital pilot plan. Effective April 1st, 1955, these hospitalization costs paid from Social Allowance Vote.

In connection with this statement of expenditures, it is also reported that under the terms of the Federal-Provincial agreement regarding unemployment assistance, which became effective July 1st, 1955, the Province has received from the Federal Government since that date to March 31st, 1956, a total of \$1,721,339.28.

Some of the developments during the year in the Social Allowance programme have been as follows:—

- (1) Effective April 1st, 1955, the new schedule of exemptions and deductions relating to earnings and other income became effective April 1st, 1955. It was anticipated that this would be uniformly implemented throughout the Province by municipal and Provincial welfare offices. This schedule was devised in the belief that the basic consideration of any such schedule should be the encouragement of individual and family independence wherever possible, and that recognition should be given to individual efforts toward self-support. It was also considered that the basic principles regarding exemptions and deductions should not merely be a means of compensation for any assistance, but should be applicable whatever rates of allowance were established. This schedule also recognized degrees of responsibility as between the head of a family and working children.
- (2) Effective April 1st, 1955, too, the dental-care programme was extended to include children under 11 years of age.
- (3) The annual Christmas bonus was paid to recipients of Social Allowance or Mothers' Allowance, amounting to \$5 for each family and \$2 for each single person.
- (4) During this fiscal year, notification was received that, effective from the beginning of the next fiscal year (April 1st, 1956), Social Allowance and Mothers' Allowance rates were to be increased. This announcement was

welcomed by everyone, in consideration of the families in receipt of social assistance whose attempts to budget on minimum income were being defeated by the rising cost of living.

REHABILITATION

During the fiscal year under review, the number of resident trainees in the Western Rehabilitation Centre for whom the Province assumed the total cost of remedial training or shared with the responsible municipalities totalled forty-four. Of this number, fourteen were arthritic patients and the remaining thirty were paraplegic patients or otherwise orthopaedically disabled. Included in this total are three readmissions.

Added to these were some thirty persons who received out-patient care. Of these out-patients, fifteen had been former resident trainees while fifteen received out-patient care only.

Of this latter fifteen and the forty-four resident trainees, twenty-nine were municipal responsibilities and thirty were Provincial responsibilities.

"SOCIAL ASSISTANCE ACT"

During the year one district municipality and three village municipalities were incorporated, but two villages were incorporated into the new district municipality, leaving the following total municipalities: Cities, 36; districts, 30; and villages, 50. Of this total of 116 municipalities, eighty-one participate in the administration of social assistance under the provisions of the "Social Assistance Act." The remainder are village municipalities whose current tax revenue for general purposes is below \$12,500, and thus they are not liable for social assistance costs.

Those who have established their own social welfare departments under section 6, subsection (b), of the regulations to the Act total eighteen, and the remaining sixty-three purchase the service from the Province under the provisions of the same section.

Also during this year twenty Boards of Review were established on request of a recipient of or applicant for social assistance, as provided in section 13 of the regulations to the Act.

The only amendment made during the year was to section 13 of the regulations. This changed the procedure for establishing a Board of Review where the person requesting the Board resides in unorganized territory. Formerly under these circumstances the Board had to be convened in Victoria, but the revision provides that the Board shall be established in the local area in which the person lives.

GENERAL COMMENTS

With the implementation of the Federal-Provincial agreements relating to unemployment assistance, it is anticipated that a major revision will take place in the existing informal interprovincial agreement accepted by most Provinces and relating to the granting of Social Allowances to non-residents in each Province. Under this previous so-called interprovincial agreement, persons who lived for one year or more in a Province without receiving public assistance gained residence in that Province, although not necessarily in a local area under Provincial residence and responsibility legislation. When non-residents in a Province required public assistance, each case was considered on its individual merits and on the basis of need and in terms of ultimate planning. For some the plan is repatriation to the Province of residence, which plan is worked out with the co-operation of the other Province concerned and for others where possible reimbursement is obtained from the responsible Province. Generally speaking, this agreement has eliminated numerous problems of interprovincial residence, but it is not always possible to obtain unanimity of opinion on residence. It has, therefore, been necessary for British Columbia, and no doubt for other Provinces as well, to accept

responsibility for some cases who are not residents of British Columbia but for whom no residence can be proved or accepted by the Province of seeming responsibility.

The agreement signed by each Province with the Federal Government may or may not contain a saving clause that the assistance may be granted without regard for residence.

It is too early to forecast, however, what the final revision of the existing inter-provincial agreement will be or in what way Branch policy relating to the granting of social assistance to non-residents will be affected or altered.

In conclusion and once again it should be emphasized that the granting of financial assistance should not be merely the giving of a cheque. Primarily, the purpose of financial assistance is supportive while the need exists, but it should also be rehabilitative, and, therefore, it cannot be given without regard or thought for the recipient and his capabilities, potentialities, and resources.

Too often when the person does make some effort toward independence, it is his feeling that he is penalized by a reduction in his cheque. Rather, the emphasis should be on what he is able to do himself toward meeting his own financial needs, with the assurance that if this is not sufficient, public assistance is there to supplement his own efforts within the limits of Branch policy.

Service to recipients of financial assistance should not be resolved into a checking for eligibility, but should be casework at its highest level of skill to know all members of the family and be ready to help with their problems and encourage them wherever possible toward the goal of independence. For those where the goal cannot be that of financial independence, there is still much that can be achieved through casework to strengthen the family or restore the self-esteem of individual persons. Financial assistance is only a tool in such a plan of service.

MOTHERS' ALLOWANCES SECTION

The Mothers' Allowance case load continued to decrease and has dropped nearly 18 per cent in the fiscal year under review to a total of 323.

This trend has been evident since 1940, when the highest case load—namely, 1,778—was reached. During the war years it was considered the drop in the case load reflected the increase in employment opportunities for women and disabled husbands who, under other circumstances, might not have been able to find employment. With the end of the war, however, came the passage of the "Social Assistance Act" in 1945, which offered a more flexible means of granting assistance to mothers and families in need, and Social Allowance became the preferable form of assistance.

The provision of Mothers' Allowance, therefore, was and continued to be used less and less, except where legal residence was a factor, because Mothers' Allowance, with its supplementation from Social Allowance funds, is a 100-per-cent Provincial charge, whereas Social Allowance is shareable with the municipality of legal residence on the usual basis. Another exception was where local municipal regulations of eligibility for Social Allowance required that there be no eligibility for assistance from any other source.

In spite of this factor, some municipalities have indicated willingness to grant Social Allowance without regard for eligibility for Mothers' Allowance, and their concurrence in consideration being given to having the "Mothers' Allowances Act" repealed.

Between 1940 and 1945 the case load decreased by 47 per cent to 940.

The following table will indicate to what extent the case load has fallen since 1946:—

Table I.—Comparative Statement of Case Load

As at March, 1946.....	905
As at March, 1947.....	863
As at March, 1948.....	751
As at March, 1949.....	681
As at March, 1950.....	643
As at March, 1951.....	569
As at March, 1952.....	503
As at March, 1953.....	470
As at March, 1954.....	426
As at March, 1955.....	393
As at March, 1956.....	323

From these figures it will be noted that the case load has fallen by approximately 64 per cent in the last ten years.

On a monthly basis the case-load figures for this fiscal year are as follows:—

Table II.—Monthly Case Load, April 1st, 1955, to March 31st, 1956

Month	Number of Allowances in Pay	Number of Persons		Incapacitated Husbands
		Mothers	Children	
April, 1955.....	389	389	890	68
May, 1955.....	384	384	879	66
June, 1955.....	380	380	872	65
July, 1955.....	367	367	840	58
August, 1955.....	361	361	826	56
September, 1955.....	352	352	801	51
October, 1955.....	342	342	774	49
November, 1955.....	330	330	759	49
December, 1955.....	328	328	757	47
January, 1956.....	326	326	745	47
February, 1956.....	328	328	756	44
March, 1956.....	323	323	742	46

The volume of applications and reapplications has fallen, and the following table indicates how these have been dealt with:—

Table III.—Statement of Applications Considered and Decisions Made

Applications pending as at April 1st, 1955.....	13
New applications received during year.....	61
Reapplications received during year.....	24
Total.....	98
Decisions—	
Grants.....	66
Refusals.....	12
Withdrawn.....	8
Applications pending as at March 31st, 1956.....	12
Total.....	98

Table III.—Statement of Applications Considered and Decisions Made—Continued

Reasons for refusals—	
Mother's earnings in excess.....	2
Husband discharged from the Mental Hospital.....	2
Property assessed value in excess—assets in excess.....	1
Property in excess.....	1
Application not proceeded with—assets in excess.....	1
Not legally separated.....	2
Not a British subject.....	2
Mother unable to qualify under section 7 of the "Mothers' Allowances Act".....	1
Total	12
<hr/>	
Reasons for applications pending—	
Documents and medical report required.....	6
Awaiting information <i>re</i> assets.....	1
Decision pending.....	1
First investigation report not received.....	2
Awaiting information <i>re</i> citizenship.....	1
Awaiting further information.....	1
Total	12
<hr/>	
Reasons for cancellation of the allowances—	
Social Allowance preferable form of assistance.....	1
Mother remarried.....	22
Left British Columbia.....	3
Mother in hospital indefinitely.....	1
Mother earning in excess.....	35
Mother separated from husband.....	1
Husband not totally disabled.....	10
Husband released from Penitentiary.....	5
Child not in mother's care.....	1
Only child 18 years of age.....	9
Only child under 16 left school.....	3
Only child under 18 left school.....	11
Only child drowned.....	1
Older children maintaining.....	16
Assets in excess.....	4
Unearned income in excess.....	5
Withdrawn.....	7
Property not being used as home.....	1
Total	136
<hr/>	

A comparative study of volume and activity in the Mothers' Allowance case loads for the past ten years is shown in the following table:—

Table IV.—Movement in Case Loads, 1946 to 1956

Year	Volume			Activity			
	Held Over from Previous Year	New Applications and Reapplications	Total	Grants	Refusals	Withdrawn	Cancellations
1946.....	14	205	219	162	43	4	197
1947.....	10	199	209	150	47	6	202
1948 ¹	40	143	183	93	59	16	205
1949.....	15	176	191	118	29	14	188
1950.....	30	141	171	127	18	12	165
1951.....	14	102	116	83	20	6	157
1952.....	7	143	150	103	26	3	169
1953.....	18	163	181	118	39	8	151
1954.....	16	114	130	79	29	3	123
1955.....	19	94	113	77	22	1	110
1956.....	13	85	98	66 ²	12 ²	8 ²	136

¹ Corrected figure.

² In addition there are twelve pending applications as at March 31st, 1956 (see Table III).

A study of the reasons for refusals between the years 1946 and 1956 shows that almost 50 per cent were based on earnings, assets, or other income. The next largest group, over 20 per cent, were because of the legal status of the mother—namely, that there was no legal marriage or ineligibility under the qualifications relating to divorce, separation, or desertion. The third largest group, also over 20 per cent, comprised those where the husband was not considered totally disabled in the light of medical findings. The balance of refusals were based on sundry qualifications of eligibility defined in the Act, such as citizenship, residence, etc.

A study of the cancellations for the past ten years from 1946 to 1956 shows that over 35 per cent were related to earnings, other income, or assets. The next largest group, about 30 per cent, of cancellations were because the children had become over age, left school, or left the home and care of the mother. Remarriage of the mother accounted for about 15 per cent of the cancellations. The other major groups of cancelled cases, about 12 per cent, were those in which the husband's health improved to the extent that he was no longer totally disabled. The balance of the cancellations showed sundry reasons, such as the fact that the mother was no longer in the home, or in the Province, or her whereabouts were unknown, or the husband had been released from the Penitentiary, etc.

Of the cancelled cases in the fiscal year 1955-56—namely, 136—the length of time each family had been in receipt of Mothers' Allowance is as follows:—

Years.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Cases.....	35	19	16	13	11	9	4	5	11	1	2	1	1	2	4	1	1

Total cases, 136. Average length of time on allowance, 4.61 years.

A review of the last ten years shows that the average length of time on allowance has decreased from 5.96 years in 1946 to 4.61 years in 1956, as above. It is apparent that while there are still some families which remain on the allowance for many years, an increasing proportion remain on the allowance for less than the average time. In 1946 approximately 53 per cent remained on the allowance less than the average length of time, while in 1956 the proportion has risen to approximately 61 per cent.

Many factors may account for this. The continued increase in employment opportunities for women since the war has been one and the change in public thought about employment of mothers with children is another. At the present time the balance appears to be midway between the idea that the mother must always remain in the home whatever her capabilities and training may be even though this means a continuation of public

assistance at a minimum standard of living, and the idea that financial independence for the family, if circumstances permit the mother to work, is preferable from the standpoint of family morale and individual self-esteem. There is the expressed concern, too, that unless assistance-giving is part of a casework service, the effect on the family can be limiting in terms of opportunity and a weakening of the natural drive for independence if the assistance continues over many years.

There is also the factor that Mothers' Allowance is no longer regarded by most persons as a pension to continue as long as there is a child under 18 years of age in the home. It is as the name should imply—an allowance to meet a situation of need as long as that need exists, but only until the family with their own resources and capabilities are able to make their own plans for independence.

The term "status" in the following table relates to the specific sections of the "Mothers' Allowances Act" or regulations under which the mother has qualified for the allowance.

Table V.—Status and Number of Mothers and Dependents in Receipt of Allowance as at March, 1956

Status of Mother in Accordance with Eligibility Qualifications Set by the Act	Number of Children							Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Widows.....	61	76	38	32	2	1	1	211
Penitentiary.....	1	5	2	2	—	—	—	10
Husband in mental hospital.....	3	3	1	—	2	—	—	9
Incapacitated husbands home.....	4	8	4	2	—	—	1	19
Incapacitated husbands away.....	2	3	4	2	—	—	—	11
Incapacitated husbands O.A.S., O.A.A., B.P., and D.P.A.....	6	5	3	—	1	—	1	16
Judicial separation.....	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Divorced.....	5	8	4	1	—	—	—	18
Deserted.....	6	11	4	5	—	—	—	26
Elder sister.....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals.....	89	119	61	45	5	1	3	323

From the above table the following figures are derived:—

Table VI.—Number of Individuals for Whom Allowance Granted

Mothers	323
Husbands	19 ¹
Children	742
	1,084

¹ This figure applies only to those incapacitated husbands who reside in the home and who are included in the Mothers' Allowance payment. In addition, it will be noted that there is a total of thirty-six incapacitated husbands in the mental hospital, out of the home, or in receipt of Old Age Security, Old-age Assistance, Blind Persons' Allowance, or Disabled Persons' Allowance.

COSTS OF MOTHERS' ALLOWANCES

As the case load has decreased, the statutory Mothers' Allowance and supplementary Social Allowance expenditures have decreased accordingly. As the basic rate of Mothers' Allowance is set by legislation, which has never been changed since the Act was implemented, supplementation is necessary from the Social Allowance Vote, to make the maximum allowance payable to recipients of Mothers' Allowance equal to the maximum payable under Social Allowance. This supplementary Social Allowance is 100 per cent chargeable to the Province, as is the statutory Mothers' Allowance.

It is necessary because of the payments from two votes to present two financial statements to cover total costs.

*Table VII.—Mothers' Allowance Financial Statement for the Fiscal Year
April 1st, 1955, to March 31st, 1956*

Amount of allowances paid as follows:—

Month	Amount of Allowance
April, 1955	\$17,975.86
May, 1955	17,620.59
June, 1955	16,995.14
July, 1955	15,896.68
August, 1955	15,138.11
September, 1955	15,725.69
October, 1955	13,776.72
November, 1955	14,849.74
December, 1955	14,026.44
January, 1956	13,967.97
February, 1956	14,551.62
March, 1956	14,163.24
	\$184,687.80

Reconciliation with Ledger Account in Controlling and
Audit Branch: Amount advanced by Minister of
Finance

\$184,687.80

The books and records of the Director of Welfare respecting Mothers' Allowances for the fiscal year ended March 31st, 1956, have been examined under my direction.

C. J. FERBER,
Comptroller-General.

*Table VIII.—Financial Statement of Supplementary Social Allowances Paid to Recipients
of Mothers' Allowance (Vote 184) for the Fiscal Year April 1st, 1955, to March
31st, 1956.*

Amount of allowances paid as follows:—

Month	Amount of Allowance
April, 1955	\$13,927.00
May, 1955	13,786.55
June, 1955	13,398.60
July, 1955	12,881.80
August, 1955	12,524.40
September, 1955	12,341.30
October, 1955	10,993.52
November, 1955	11,876.47
December, 1955	11,169.63
Christmas bonus	1,645.00
January, 1956	10,863.59
February, 1956	11,479.65
March, 1956	11,115.07
	\$148,002.58

Reconciliation with Ledger Account in Controlling and
Audit Branch: Amount advanced by Minister of
Finance

\$148,002.58

The books and records of the Director of Welfare respecting Supplementary Social Allowances paid to recipients of Mothers' Allowance for the fiscal year ended March 31st, 1956, have been examined under my direction.

C. J. FERBER,
Comptroller-General.

Table IX.—Statement Showing per Capita Cost to the Province

Fiscal Year	Total Expenditures	Population at June of Each Year	Per Capita Cost to the Province
1953-54.....	\$387,919.17	1,230,000	\$0.32
1954-55.....	401,442.76	1,266,000	.32
1955-56.....	332,690.38	1,305,000	.25

GENERAL COMMENTS

No amendments were made to the "Mothers' Allowances Act" or regulations during the year under review.

One can only comment again that it becomes increasingly evident that this form of categorical assistance has become ineffective and superfluous. Its purpose has long since been negated by the wider provisions and equal benefits of the "Social Assistance Act."

The "Mothers' Allowances Act" as it is written is restrictive and prohibitive and reflects to some extent current thinking some two or three decades ago regarding indigency, "worthiness" or "unworthiness," family breakdown and morality. These restrictions and prohibitions have made it more and more difficult to administer the Act equitably and in conformity with modern social welfare programmes.

That it is a resource used almost entirely by and in municipal areas is evident from the following table. The reasons for this have been stated elsewhere in this report.

Table X.—Proportion of Applications and Grants in Organized Territory

Total applications and reapplications received.....	85
Applicants residing in organized territory.....	82
Applicants having legal residence in organized territory	81
Total grants made during year.....	66
Recipients residing in organized territory.....	63
Recipients having legal residence in organized territory	64
Allowances in pay as at March 31st, 1956.....	323
Recipients having legal residence in unorganized ter- ritory	27
Recipients having legal residence in organized territory	296

From these figures it will be noted that approximately 95 per cent of all applicants for the allowance had legal residence in organized (municipal) territory, while approximately 98 per cent of all recipients of Mothers' Allowances as at March 31st, 1956, also had legal residence in organized territory.

The present effectiveness and future need of this form of categorical assistance becomes more and more a matter requiring serious consideration. In giving this consideration, four main factors must be taken into account. These are, although not necessarily listed in order of importance, namely, the effect on municipal costs for social assistance if the Act were repealed, public acceptance of any such plan, the effect on the recipients of Mothers' Allowances, and the possible elimination of duplicate administration procedures.

The first is a matter of Provincial-municipal relationships and would require negotiation with an acceptance by the municipalities. There is reason to believe that this would not be lacking from the municipalities most concerned.

Explanation to the general public is more difficult and complicated as there may still be many who regard Mothers' Allowance as the preferable and more beneficial form of assistance. It therefore rests with the Branch to continue in its efforts to interpret wherever and whenever the opportunity arises that this belief is no longer valid, and that

a far larger percentage of mothers and their dependent children are deriving equal financial and social benefits while in receipt of Social Allowance, which is the alternative form of assistance.

In earnest consideration of the welfare of the present recipients of Mothers' Allowance, which is of primary importance, it is sincerely believed that a transfer from Mothers' Allowance to Social Allowance should cause little disruption and no disadvantage to them.

Finally, from a Branch point of view, it would eliminate duplication of administration of assistance throughout the Province.

It is known that one Province in Canada has already repealed its Mothers' Allowances Act and incorporated its provisions into its general social assistance programme. It is suggested that British Columbia might well consider taking similar action without disadvantage or harm to the recipients or any detriment or limitation of effectiveness to its social assistance programme.

FAMILY SERVICE SECTION

Family Service, as the title implies, is a service to families. The family is the primary and most important unit of society, and social work has always as its goal the preservation and strengthening of that unit, because whenever the family or its members suffer disruption, the community also suffers. Service to families, therefore, is the basic service in any welfare programme and is present whatever other service may be provided. Its purpose is to try to save marriages threatening to dissolve, to help when separation seemingly becomes inevitable, to encourage and support parents whose conduct or way of life might otherwise lead to loss of guardianship of their children, to work with the teen-ager in conflict with society or the older person who is doubtful of his or her place in the family unit.

Financial assistance may never be needed because economic security does not always eliminate or solve problems of personality and behaviour. What is needed is the skill of the social worker, based on a special technical knowledge of human behaviour and motivation and a comprehensive knowledge of social resources and how to use them.

As has been said many times, no monetary value can be placed on services to the family; they can only be measured in terms of human welfare and happiness.

During the year under review the case load in the Family Service category has remained fairly level. Figures alone do not indicate the work and time or the skill and problems involved, but the following table gives the monthly case load as carried by the field service outside the greater metropolitan areas served by private family service agencies.

*Table I.—Total of Family Service Cases from April 1st, 1955,
to March 31st, 1956*

April, 1955	1,691
May, 1955	1,685
June, 1955	1,691
July, 1955	1,642
August, 1955	1,643
September, 1955	1,630
October, 1955	1,654
November, 1955	1,637
December, 1955	1,633
January, 1956	1,666
February, 1956	1,653
March, 1956	1,640

OTHER SERVICES

Family Allowances

By arrangement with the Department of National Health and Welfare, this Division acts as the channel for requests from the Family Allowances Division for British Columbia for inquiries regarding the use of or eligibility for Family Allowances in some instances, or for recommendations concerning a suitable payee.

*Table II.—Requests Received from Family Allowances Division,
April 1st, 1955, to March 31st, 1956*

Pending as at April 1st, 1955	3
Received during fiscal year April 1st, 1955, to March 31st, 1956, by months—	
April, 1955	6
May, 1955	8
June, 1955	8
July, 1955	10
August, 1955	11
September, 1955	8
October, 1955	9
November, 1955	10
December, 1955	9
January, 1956	9
February, 1956	5
March, 1956	8
	— 101
Total requests received	104
Requests completed within fiscal year	102
	—
Requests pending as at April 1st, 1956	2

These requests for reports were directed as follows:—

Table III.—Referrals to District Offices and Other Agencies

Referrals pending as at April 1st, 1955	28
Requests forwarded during fiscal year April 1st, 1955, to March 31st, 1956, by regions—	
Region I ¹	36
Region II ¹	20
Region III	10
Region IV	10
Region V	21
Region VI	6
	— 103
Total number of requests referred	131 ²

¹ Includes referrals to private agencies in Victoria and Vancouver.

² The difference in this total as compared with requests is accounted for by the fact that one request from the Family Allowances Division may require two or more separate reports from different offices or agencies.

Table IV.—Referrals Completed within Fiscal Year, by Regions

Region I	37
Region II	20
Region III	10
Region IV	9
Region V	17
Region VI	9
	<hr/>
Total	102
Total number of requests referred	131
	<hr/>
Referrals pending as at April 1st, 1956	29

Third-party Administration of Family Allowances

During the year two cases were recommended and accepted for third-party administration, and this remained in effect at March 31st, 1956.

Old Age Security

Requests are also received from the Old Age Security Division in British Columbia of the Department of National Health and Welfare for assistance to persons who are completing applications for Old Age Security. This assistance usually comprises help with correspondence, or securing necessary documents, or sometimes financial assistance in the form of Social Allowance until a decision on the application can be made by the Old Age Security Division.

Table V.—Requests Received from Old Age Security Division from April 1st, 1955, to March 31st, 1956

Pending as at April 1st, 1955	8
Received during fiscal year April 1st, 1955, to March 31st, 1956, by months—	
April, 1955	---
May, 1955	---
June, 1955	---
July, 1955	---
August, 1955	2
September, 1955	1
October, 1955	---
November, 1955	1
December, 1955	1
January, 1956	1
February, 1956	1
March, 1956	---
	<hr/>
	7
	<hr/>
Total case load	15
Cases completed within fiscal year	14
	<hr/>
Cases pending as at April 1st, 1956	1

Table VI.—Requests to District Offices

Pending as at April 1st, 1955	8
Requests forwarded during fiscal year April 1st, 1955, to March 31st, 1956, by regions—	
Region I	—
Region II	1
Region III	1
Region IV	2
Region V	—
Region VI	3
	— 7
	—
Total number of requests	15

Table VII.—Reports Completed by Regions

Region I	2
Region II	2
Region III	1
Region IV	2
Region V	1
Region VI	6
	—
Total	14
Total number of requests	15
	—
Requests pending as at April 1st, 1956	1

Tribunals

During the fiscal year under review no requests for the establishment of tribunals were received from the Department of National Health and Welfare, Old Age Security Division.

CONCLUSION

For the help and co-operation of the social workers, district supervisors, and Regional Administrators, the Division is, as always, appreciative and grateful. Without this help the common purpose of Field Service and Division—namely, service to people—could not be achieved.

This appreciation goes in equal measure, too, to municipal welfare departments, other departments of government, and private agencies for their co-operation and advice whenever it is sought.

Respectfully submitted.

(MISS) MARIE RIDDELL,
Provincial Supervisor, Family Division.

CHILD WELFARE DIVISION

I beg to present herewith the annual report of the Child Welfare Division for the fiscal year ended March 31st, 1956.

As at April 1st, 1955, there were 1,691 children in the care of the Superintendent of Child Welfare. During the fiscal year, 853 were admitted, 650 discharged, and, as at March 31st, 1956, 1,894 remain in care. Their legal status is:—

Legal Status	Children in Care as at Mar. 31, 1956
Wards of the Superintendent of Child Welfare under the “Protection of Children Act”	1,215
Before Court under the “Protection of Children Act”	141
Wards of a Children’s Aid Society	132
Wards of other Provinces	37
Committed to Superintendent of Child Welfare under “Juve- nile Delinquency Act”	54
In care by parental request	315
	1,894

There are also eighty-five children in care whose parents, as Sons of Freedom Doukhobors, refused to send them to school. They were apprehended by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and are in care by Court order under the “Protection of Children Act” by reason of habitual truancy. These children are attending the local school, and their progress is reported to be satisfactory. As a group they live in dormitory quarters, and this project will be operated by the District School Board as a regular school dormitory as of April 1st, 1956. Forty-eight were discharged from the dormitory to their parents during the year, and twenty-four were newly apprehended by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, leaving a total of eighty-five in residence as at March 31st, 1956, as compared with 109 at the beginning of the fiscal year. Their general health has been good, although a high percentage have required extensive dental care.

AGE AND LEGAL STATUS OF CHILDREN IN CARE

The age-groups and legal status of the 1,894 children (exclusive of the Sons of Freedom children) in the care of the Superintendent of Child Welfare as at March 31st, 1956, is shown below in Table I.

Table I.—Age and Legal Status of Children in Care of the Superintendent of Child Welfare as at March 31st, 1956

	0-5 Months	6-11 Months	1-2 Years	3-5 Years	6-11 Years	12-13 Years	14-17 Years	18-21 Years	Total
Wards under “Protection of Children Act”	3	17	104	158	378	158	281	116	1,215
Before the Court under the “Protection of Children Act”	5	13	22	32	41	9	19	.....	141
Children in care at parental request	24	17	35	38	76	22	72	31	315
Committed under “Juvenile Delinquency Act” .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	13	23	15	54
Wards of Children’s Aid Societies under “Protection of Children Act”	3	12	20	13	23	10	26	25	132
Wards of other Provinces .....	.....	.....	.....	1	5	5	21	5	37
Totals	35	59	181	242	526	217	442	192	1,894

FEW WARDS UNDER 6 MONTHS OF AGE IN FOSTER HOMES

Last year the Division reported there were only six wards of the Superintendent of Child Welfare under the age of 6 months in foster-home care. This year the Division proudly points to the fact that there are but three in this age-group. The Division is also pleased to draw attention to the relatively few wards between the ages of 6 months and 1 year.

SOCIAL HANDICAPS DELAY PERMANENT PLACEMENT

Of the 262 wards aged 1 to 6 years shown in Table I, eight are grossly physically handicapped and two are in The Woodlands School for the retarded child. Many of the remaining 252 in this age-group are children of mixed racial origin. Permanent planning through adoption for them is difficult because prejudice and intolerance persist. Each year the number placed with adoptive parents is higher, but many months of babyhood and sometimes years of childhood are spent by some in foster-home care, who otherwise could use the greater security of adoption placement. Geraldine, a ward, is one of these. She is now 5 and her bright, engaging manner, good physique and intellect have not yet sufficed to overcome the social handicap of her part-negro background.

1,617 CHILDREN IN FOSTER HOMES IN SIX REGIONS

Much has been accomplished by the Social Welfare Branch during the past ten years in building up placement resources throughout this far-flung and mountainous Province, and seldom is a child now placed outside the region in which he was admitted to care. This in itself is a remarkable achievement, but, as will be seen in Table II, each region has a rapidly expanding foster-home programme with which to cope.

Table II.—Location and Legal Status of Children in Care of the Superintendent of Child Welfare as at March 31st, 1956

	P.C.A. Wards	J.D.A. Wards	C.A.S. Wards	O.P. Wards	Before the Court	Parental Request	Total
S.W.B. regions—							
Region I.....	106	14	23	3	5	37	188
Region II.....	150	6	16	4	28	44	248
Region III.....	256	6	13	4	10	49	338
Region IV.....	152	6	10	1	6	18	193
Region V.....	187	6	9	3	70	43	318
Region VI.....	192	10	38	9	18	65	332
Totals.....	1,043	48	109	24	137	256	1,617
Placed with a C.A.S.—							
C.A.S., Vancouver.....	59	1	—	3	1	21	85
C.C.A.S., Vancouver.....	20	1	—	9	—	14	44
F.C.S., Victoria.....	18	1	—	1	1	19	40
Totals.....	97	3	—	13	2	54	169
In institutions—							
Essondale.....	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Woodlands.....	10	—	—	—	—	—	10
B.I.S. and G.I.S.....	14	1	—	—	1	—	16
Oakalla.....	9	—	—	—	—	1	10
Totals.....	36	1	—	—	1	1	39
Placed out of Province.....	28	—	15	—	1	1	45
On active service.....	11	2	8	—	—	3	24
Grand totals.....	1,215	54	132	37	141	315	1,894

The 1,617 children in foster homes throughout Social Welfare Branch regions include infants, small children, adolescents, and young adults. Among them are boys and girls with a wide range of needs and problems, and their social worker represents the only bulwark they have against fear of the future. One young girl expressed this when she wrote the Superintendent to acknowledge a graduation gift: "I am the hap-

piest person in the world to have my R.N. degree, and it has been possible only because my social worker helped me believe in myself and others. Just think, I was termed an 'incorrigible' eight years ago!"

FOSTER-CHILDREN MAKE A "CASE LOAD" SPECIAL

To reach this goal with a child who has not her own parents to confide in or turn to for comfort and guidance, a social worker assumes a heavy burden of responsibility. Distance, weather, the demands and emergencies which arise daily in other categories of service, all impinge upon and impede the worker trying to help a child "find her way." Case loads in numbers alone can never tell of the thought and planning or the interviewing hours—in and after a regular day's work—which go to make up the true content of "case loads" which include boys and girls entrusted to the Superintendent.

The adult in want, the aged and infirm must receive care and protection. For many, however, their needs in the main can be met through social services and the establishment of a regular and reasonable monthly income. Seldom are they alone with their problems in the same overwhelming sense as is the child. For the child, a change of worker, a difficulty in the replacement of staff, or even an unavoidable delay in a visit to a foster home may spell disaster. As the population of British Columbia increases, the Branch can expect the number of dependent children to increase, and it would seem from the concern for children expressed by workers in the division and field alike that some modification in the present assigning and assessing of case loads is indicated. Good use could be made of new or expanded placement resources and, in particular, of some treatment facility for the sick and disturbed child.

650 CHILDREN DISCHARGED FROM CARE

The time, thought, and planning required to help children can be gauged in part by a review of the reasons why 650 children were discharged from care during the past twelve months. Adoption was finalized by Supreme Court order for forty. Their average age was 2½ years, and for each a worker and sometimes several workers in different parts of the Province gave serious thought to their needs and searched far to find the right adopting parents for them. For one little 3-year-old girl the Division went as far afield as Montreal and, with the help of a social agency in that city, found parents of a similar racial origin who are now proud to call her "daughter." From a financial standpoint, thousands of dollars of taxpayers' money have been saved in this one adoption placement alone. No price can be placed, however, upon the savings in human values which resulted from the effort and joint planning of the several workers involved for a child who, to them, had a right to parents of her own.

Thirty boys and girls reached legal adulthood, and eleven between 17 and 21 years of age married. It is difficult to assess what agency care meant to these forty-one young people. Some had been committed to care as incorrigibles, and others because their parents had failed to care for and protect them adequately. Whatever the reasons and circumstances, their growing-up years apart from their own family were not without difficulties. Many hours of various workers' time are to be accounted for in what these young people achieved. Almost without exception, they are now law-abiding responsible citizens.

Guardianship of four wards was transferred to a Children's Aid Society in the interests of the child, as provided for under the "Protection of Children Act." Orders of committal involving thirty-one children from sixteen families were rescinded, and the children returned to their parents because the conditions which led to their removal had been remedied. One hundred and fifteen children, involving fifty-eight families, who had been apprehended under the "Protection of Children Act" were also reunited with their parents when home conditions improved before it became necessary to ask the Court for a committal order.

Six boys in care under the "Juvenile Delinquency Act" became involved in a further delinquency and were committed to the Brannen Lake School for Boys. Workers will continue to try to help these six young people and their families, but more and more often it is to be observed that neither the Social Welfare Branch nor probation staff are able to devote the working-time required to do a truly rehabilitative job with the delinquent and young offender.

Five children died this year, and the circumstances in each instance were particularly distressing to both foster-parents and workers. Two children under 2 years of age had been removed from deplorable home conditions and, despite constant medical care, were unable to survive the physical and emotional malnourishment to which they had been subjected. A third boy, awaiting adoption placement, died as a result of a household accident. No blame whatsoever could be attached to the foster-parents, nor could any child's own parents have felt a greater sense of loss at the death of a son than they. A swimming accident claimed the life of another ward, a promising boy aged 18 years. The fifth deceased child, a boy aged 17 years, was found by jury to have died by misadventure. For a long time he had been disturbed and difficult beyond the point where available treatment facilities could help, and this made his tragic death doubly distressing to those who knew him.

The death of any child is saddening, but social workers and foster-parents share a particular sorrow when the child is one apart from his own parents and entrusted to their care.

Of the remaining 408 children discharged, 338 had been in care at parents' request, sixty-four were wards of a Children's Aid Society, and six were wards of another Province. Seventy-three of these children were placed for adoption and nineteen were legally adopted. Two hundred and forty-one were returned to their own families when the crisis which led to the family breakdown was resolved. Twenty-eight reached their majority and became self-supporting. Two married and two whom we were unable to help enough were committed to an industrial school. One suffered a severe mental breakdown and was admitted to the Provincial Mental Hospital. Forty-two were returned to the agency holding guardianship for further care.

Of the total 650 children discharged from care during the past twelve-month fiscal period, similar time, thought, and planning were required for the 408 children (non-wards) while they were in care, and while they were being prepared for their discharge, as were required for the 242 wards discharged from care. The workers who planned with these 650 children discharged from care and the 853 admitted to care during the same period many times had to ponder the question raised centuries ago out of the concern for the boy: "Is it well with the child?"

FOSTER-CHILDREN PLAN THEIR FUTURE

There continues to be a good percentage of boys and girls completing high school and professional and vocational courses. Hairdressing, business and nurses' training each attracted a number of girls this year, and several others are preparing themselves for teachers' training following completion of this term's school studies. Six boys enlisted in the services, and each has reported satisfaction. Several others are persisting toward their goal of university professional training, and their efforts to help themselves through employment, bursary and scholarship qualification indicate the response they have made to a worker's support and encouragement and augurs well for future success in their chosen field of endeavour.

THE SPECIALLY GIFTED CHILD IN CARE

The specially gifted child is to be found as often among children in care as among other children in a community, and the staffs are grateful to teachers, art and music groups, and to numerous service clubs for the unstinting support given in assessing and

developing a child's particular talent. Some have received high recognition in drama and musical festivals. Artists in various fields have auditioned and advised about abilities and courses, and the foster-parents of these happily endowed young people seem for ever able to inspire through their resourcefulness and appreciation. A piano was moved over in one home this year to make room for an organ newly purchased by foster-parents so that two children could pursue special musical interests.

The accordion and violin are played by foster-children in the Cariboo, Kootenays, and Fraser Valley. Local dance and ballet groups throughout the Province know them, and several church and community choirs are the better because foster-parents listened and heard clear, true notes in the voices of boys and girls brought to them by social workers for care away from their own homes.

Family Allowances are used by many of the children to pay for music and other art lessons, and this has been a tremendous resource to workers in encouraging them to continue their special artistic interests. Few may reach fame as artists, but for children not with their own parents there is particular need for self-expression, and their lives and the lives around them will be enriched for all time by the pleasures given and received through their creative spirits.

FAMILY ALLOWANCES FOR FOSTER-CHILDREN

During the year \$46,642.87 was paid to the Superintendent in Family Allowances on behalf of children in care—\$41,173.73 was disbursed and \$5,469.14 deposited in trust. As of December 31st, 1955 (fiscal year of the Department of National Health and Welfare), the balance accumulated over the past eleven years in the Family Allowance Trust Account was \$39,153.42.

LOW PERCENTAGE OF WARDS IN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

It is always with regret the Superintendent reports on wards in correctional institutions, even though the number has never been disproportionately high in comparison with the total number of children in care. Out of 1,894 children in the care of the Superintendent of Child Welfare as at March 31st, 1956, there are only twenty-six in such serious trouble, and throughout the years preceding, the percentage has never been above a fraction of 1 per cent. Nevertheless, there is a sense of failure in the realization that the Branch has been unable to provide even these few with more effective help.

Wards who get into trouble with the law usually have come from homes of separation, stress, and irresponsibility and have known years of hurt and neglect. Throughout the time they are in care, because they are so upset, they, too, often move from one foster home to another. Finally, and it seems inevitably, they commit an act which results in their committal to a correctional institution.

TREATMENT FOR THE PRE-DELINQUENT AND PRE-PSYCHOTIC YOUNG CHILD NEEDED

Some of these disturbed adolescents will benefit from the programmes offered in the various correctional institutions, and will leave them better able to cope with their own and their family's problems. For some, however, there is not this hope. Usually these boys and girls are not diagnosed psychotic, but their behaviour is none the less bizarre, uncontrolled, and uncontrollable. Not medically eligible for existent mental hospital services, they present a most pressing problem of discipline and safe-keeping to other institutional staffs and in even a greater degree to the field staff, when, as a last resource, foster-home placement is tried. These young people require care as provided in a properly structured treatment centre, and this facility is not available in British Columbia at this time.

EARLY DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT ESSENTIAL

There are always a certain number of children in care of pre-school and school age who are sick and disturbed to the point where they can be readily recognized as potential candidates for institutional care of one kind or another. They are too upset to respond to foster-home care, and no attempt at treatment can be made by the field staff with the limited amount of supervision time available to them. Untreated, these are children who, as adolescents and young adults, break as psychotics and enter a mental hospital or, because of their neurosis or character disorder, break laws or live crippled, unhappy lives in communities. When either occurs, the cost in terms of the custodial care they will need throughout their lives—to say nothing of the loss in human resources—mounts to a staggering figure. Treated appropriately when treatment could still be of help, many would be saved for useful, constructive citizenship. Treatment facilities of this nature are most urgently needed in British Columbia.

CHILDREN IN CARE OF THE THREE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES

The three Children's Aid Societies together cared for 2,762 children during the year, and as at March 31st, 1956, 2,055 remain in their care. Their ages are shown in Table III.

Table III.—Number of Children, by Age-grouping, in Care of the Three Children's Aid Societies as at March 31st, 1956

Agency	Under 2 Years	3-5 Years	6-11 Years	12-18 Years	19-21 Years	Total
Children's Aid Society.....	177	162	300	452	96	1,187
Catholic Children's Aid Society.....	124	82	178	159	92	635
Victoria Children's Aid Society.....	39	21	63	89	21	233
Totals.....	340	265	541	700	209	2,055

The whereabouts of the children in care of Children's Aid Societies is shown in Table IV.

Table IV.—Location of Children in Care of Children's Aid Societies as at March 31st, 1956

Agency	Foster Home	Special Institutions	Woodlands School	Provincial Mental Hospital	Correctional Institution	Total
Children's Aid Society.....	1,126	22	5	10	24	1,187
Catholic Children's Aid Society.....	549	63	12	2	9	635
Victoria Children's Aid Society.....	222	5	1	5	—	233
Totals.....	1,897 ¹	90 ²	18	17	33	2,055

¹ Of the 1,897 children in foster homes, 169 are children in care at the request of the Superintendent of Child Welfare.

² Of the ninety children in special institutions, four are children in care at the request of the Superintendent of Child Welfare and are placed with the Catholic Children's Aid Society.

COST OF MAINTAINING CHILDREN

The cost to the Provincial Government of maintaining children for the fiscal year was as follows:—

Gross cost of maintenance of children in Child Welfare Division foster homes.....	\$617,504.24
Gross cost to Provincial Government of maintenance of children with Provincial residence in care of Children's Aid Societies.....	509,006.35
Gross cost to Provincial Government of maintenance of children with municipal residence in care of Children's Aid Societies (this represents 80 per cent of total cost).....	469,144.15
Gross cost of transportation of children in care of Superintendent	7,156.39
Gross cost of hospitalization of new-born infants being permanently planned for by Superintendent	22,792.00
Grants to sundry homes.....	1,300.00
Gross expenditure	\$1,626,903.13
<i>Less</i> collections and refunds.....	196,133.78
Net cost to Provincial Government.....	\$1,430,769.35

FOSTER AND ADOPTION HOMES FOR ROMAN CATHOLIC CHILDREN URGENTLY NEEDED

The number of children shown in special institutions in Table IV is high in relation to the number of children in the Catholic Children's Aid Society and is the result of this agency's inability to establish sufficient foster- and adoption-home placement facilities for new-born babies. Our Lady of Mercy Home in Vancouver cares for thirty to thirty-five babies a month, and sometimes they remain in the institution several months before a permanent home becomes available for them. Child Welfare Division continues to accept as many as possible from the society for adoption placement throughout the Province, but the response to pleas made to Roman Catholic communities in all parts of the Province for homes for children still lags behind that of families of other religious denominations. Institutional care for babies and small children has long since been considered detrimental to their healthy growth and development. It is the hope of the Superintendent and of the Catholic Children's Aid Society that the plans now under way for wide publicity next year and in the years following about the needs of children will open up facilities which will make it possible for that agency to move more rapidly toward its stated goal of eliminating this type of care for children whose urgent and only need is parents to rear them.

THE PROMISE IN ADOPTION

"Adopted child" is a term heard more and more often with pride and satisfaction in every strata of society. Acquiring a family denied in marriage through adoption, to-day, receives the highest approval and commendation of society, law, and church. For the child, through the love and understanding of adopting parents and kindred, it holds promise of rightful opportunity for healthy development—physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

The miracle of enduring family affection and respect through adoption is not wrought by the simple process of bringing together a childless couple and a child. Each must be right for the other, and since the child is usually too small to speak and choose for himself, the social worker must be watchful and discerning on his behalf. Both

husband and wife must be equally willing to accept the limitations imposed by child-rearing upon personal freedom, and each must possess in good measure the attributes of a good parent.

ADOPTING PARENTS MUST BOTH DESIRE CHILDREN

Sometimes prospective adopting parents refuse to accept a worker's estimate that their request for a child is not a true and joint desire for a family. This year the Division was asked to help plan for a little girl who had fraudulently been taken from British Columbia to the United States by an American couple. The Division learned later that they had been rejected by an adoption agency in one of the Southern States, came to Canada briefly seven years ago, inserted an advertisement in a newspaper, and by this means obtained a baby from her parents. When crossing the border, they stated the child was adopted, but no legal steps had in fact been taken. Four years later the adopting parents' marriage ended in divorce, and the adopting father was in penitentiary on a serious federal offence. The child's legal and social position at age 7 years, with her adopting parents, the community, and in both Canada and the United States, was not one to enhance her chances of future satisfactory development. The adoption agency which in the first instance rejected their application for a child was prophetically accurate in their assessment of this couple's capacity for parenthood. It is this kind of careful assessment and an equally careful evaluation of the child's individual needs which makes of adoption placement a sound and desirable plan for both parents and child.

WIDE CHOICE OF ADOPTION HOMES NEEDED

To do a truly selective job of choice of home according to the needs of the child, it is essential that a sufficient number of approved adoption homes be available to the agency. During this year it has become evident that, because of the demands of other more imminently emergent services, workers have been unable to devote the time required to applicants seeking children to adopt. As a result, the number of approved homes awaiting placement of a child is alarmingly low throughout the Province. In time this situation can but have a serious effect upon permanent planning for new-born children as well as for those in foster-home care who need adopting parents.

Table V.—Ages of Children Placed for Adoption throughout the Social Welfare Branch Regions during the Fiscal Year

Region	Under 2 Weeks	Under 1 Month	1-2 Months	3-5 Months	6-11 Months	1-2 Years	3-4 Years	5-8 Years	Total
Region I.....	20	16	11	5	5	1	2	4	64
Region II.....	30	17	16	10	7	2	1	---	83
Region III.....	26	14	9	6	4	4	1	1	65
Region IV.....	20	11	7	7	5	---	---	---	50
Region V.....	6	7	8	4	5	1	1	1	33
Region VI.....	10	7	13	2	1	2	---	---	35
Totals.....	112	72	64	34	27	10	5	6	330

Table VI.—Religion of Children Placed for Adoption throughout the Social Welfare Branch Regions during the Fiscal Year

Region	Roman Catholic	Protestant	Other	Total
Region I.....	10	54	---	64
Region II.....	5	78	---	83
Region III.....	10	55	---	65
Region IV.....	8	41	1	50
Region V.....	7	26	---	33
Region VI.....	4	31	---	35
Totals.....	44	285	1	330

As will be seen in Table V, the largest single group of children placed for adoption this year were under the age of 2 weeks. These children went to their adopting parents directly from hospital. The next largest group were aged 2 weeks to 2 months. They required varying periods in foster homes before their adoption placement could be finalized, but their stay in pay-care was still short. A fair number between 6 months and 2 years were placed also. Most had needed foster-home care up to the day of their adoption placement. The eleven placed between the age of 3 and 8 years had been with foster-parents most of their lives. These were children termed "hard to place," not because they lacked promise, but in the main because of race, colour, or creed. A glance back to Table I reveals that there is still a high number of children in this same age-group in foster-home care. However, thirty-four foster homes became adoption homes this year. Many need adopting parents, and it is evident from the experience in placing these eleven children this year that more of them could gain the greater security of adoption if workers throughout the Province were able to do a more concentrated job of adoption-home finding for special children, and of evaluating the needs of those presently in foster homes who could benefit by adoption placement. A thousand dollars a year per child could be saved, and the chances of each knowing health and happiness throughout its growing years would be increased a hundredfold.

EVERY CHILD'S NEEDS ARE INDIVIDUAL

The staff of the Adoption Placement Section of the Division was increased to two this year, and the Division looks forward to there being a third member next year. That a higher number of children will be placed for adoption with three workers will not necessarily be so, because each child relinquished for adoption has different needs and his problems are individual. If he is beyond babyhood, as a good number of the children placed this year were, he will set his own pace as to when he reaches out to go to his new parents. This he must be allowed to do for his own and their future happiness. The actual number of placements may not be higher with an increased staff, but there will be more workers' time in the Division to devote to children now in foster homes whose need for parents of their own is urgent and calls for slow and careful planning.

Ordinarily a baby is placed with his adopting parents with a minimum of difficulty, but it still takes time. If he has been accepted from a Children's Aid Society in Vancouver for placement in a Child Welfare Division adoption home, as many babies are, the Divisional worker sees him, arranges to have him examined by a doctor, and takes the adopting parents to meet him when they arrive from the district office. If medical consultation is indicated, this appointment is also arranged by the Divisional worker, and it is she who brings the baby with the prospective adopting parents for the examination and conference. Several hours of a worker's time are spent completing the placement of a happy, healthy infant even when there are no legal complications involved in his relinquishment by his parents.

A 5-YEAR-OLD BOY FINDS SECURITY

If the child is 5 years old and has known a series of placements made by mother and several relatives, as did Allan, he will regard the worker and all adults warily and will need great reassurance during each step of the way to his adoptive home.

The parents chosen for Allan came from a long distance to meet him. They understood when they saw his too-anxious little face that they must let him get to know them slowly if they were to finally have him as their son. Despite the travelling involved, they came back to Vancouver at their own expense not once, but several times, to visit with him. They sent him pictures of their house, dog, neighbour's children, and the farm animals, and they spent time between each visit talking to their district worker about things they could do to help Allan understand he was going to be safe with them. Finally, the Divisional worker and the boy went to spend a week-end with the prospective adopting

parents. When they returned to the foster home, Allan packed his possessions, and when next the adopting parents came to see him, he was ready to go with them "for keeps."

Jimmie and Roy, aged 2½ and 3 years, had similar but even greater social handicaps than Allan. Their adoption placement had been delayed because none for a long time had applied to adopt either a half-Japanese or a part-American Indian little boy. Both children were intellectually bright, handsome, and lovable. After many months of searching, adopting parents were found for each this year. Neither adopting family is of the same racial origin as Jim or Roy, but this has not lessened their acceptance of their child or detracted from their satisfaction in being parents by adoption. Jim's adopting parents write: "The Little Chief does fine. So do we." Roy's warm responsiveness has endeared him to a wide adopted family circle, who have made his future security their goal and happiness.

These are the special children an extra worker will enable us to plan for better. They are time-consuming placements, but, when accomplished, are gratifying beyond any point of measurement.

665 CHILDREN PLACED FOR ADOPTION THIS YEAR BY CHILD WELFARE DIVISION AND CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES

Three hundred and thirty children, including two sets of twins, were placed in adoption homes by Child Welfare Division this year, and thirty-four, originally placed on a foster-home basis, changed status in the same home and will be legally adopted in due course by their foster-parents. In the same period the three Children's Aid Societies made 301 adoption placements. Six hundred and sixty-five children in total were placed by child welfare agencies in adoption homes, where they will receive every reasonable opportunity for healthy growth of body, mind, and spirit.

MOST ADOPTED CHILDREN IN BRITISH COLUMBIA PLACED BY AGENCIES

Ten years ago the majority of adoption orders granted by Supreme Court in this Province involved children who had been placed by unauthorized persons. To-day the picture is completely reversed. As is shown in Table VII, in a total of 1,167 adoptions this year, 340 involved children adopted by blood relatives, and of the 827 remaining, only 114 of the placements had been arranged by other than a recognized child welfare agency.

Table VII.—*Legally Completed Adoptions, throughout the Province, according to the Type of Placement during the Fiscal Year*

Area	Agency	Blood Relative	Unauthorized Person	Total
Region I.....	63	31	14	108
Region II.....	93	58 ¹	28	179
Region III.....	85	19	8	112
Region IV.....	53	29	3	85
Region V.....	32 ¹	26 ¹	12	70
Region VI.....	48 ¹	38	11	97
	374	201	76	651
Vancouver Children's Aid Society.....	199 ¹	92 ¹	27	318
Catholic Children's Aid Society.....	65	10	4	79
Victoria Children's Aid Society.....	71	36	5	112
	335	138	36	509
Child placed in Province, but order granted elsewhere.....	4	1	2	7
Totals.....	713	340	114	1,167

¹ Figures include orders pending. The total number of orders pending is seven.

"ADOPTION ACT" AMENDED

The amendment made this year to the "Adoption Act" whereby the adopted child's right to inherit from his natural parent was removed severs the one remaining legal tie between him and his natural family. He may still be named in will by them, but the adoption order now places the adopted child in the same position and relationship to his adopting parents and kindred as if he had been born to them. This is in line with progressive child welfare and legal thinking, and safeguards fully the status and rights of the increasing number of persons who will grow into adulthood as members of an adopted family.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE "CHILDREN OF UNMARRIED PARENTS ACT"

Sixty new agreements, twenty Court orders, and eleven settlements were obtained during the year under the "Children of Unmarried Parents Act," and a total of \$67,574.66 was collected. This is \$8,715.01 more than last year. Some of this increase is undoubtedly due to the continuing trend to be observed in work with unmarried parents toward their both desiring a settlement instead of the long-term financial undertaking of an agreement or order. Socially and economically this seems sound and in the best interests of all concerned.

JEWISH OVERSEAS CHILDREN

The last Jewish overseas child was discharged from care this year. To the Vancouver Children's Aid Society and the Jewish communities in Vancouver and throughout Canada the Division expresses its appreciation of a task superbly done.

OTHER PHASES OF DIVISION'S WORK ACTIVE

Ten applications to legitimate a birth were processed this year for the Director of Vital Statistics. Sixty-three requests from Judges of the Supreme Court for reports with respect to custody of children were received. A total of ninety-two such reports were submitted to Court, and twenty-two are still pending completion. Eighty-nine applications to bring children to British Columbia from other countries were investigated for the Canadian Department of Immigration, and eighteen of these are still to be finalized. Arrangements to repatriate fifty-four children to or from British Columbia were worked on, and three had not been finalized at the end of the year. The majority of these are adolescents who have run away from home, and their return is planned through the public welfare department and local child welfare agency of the appropriate Province, who undertake to give the child and his family what help they can to stabilize the home situation upon the child's return.

Two hundred and sixty-six, with seventy-four still unfinished, sundry interprovincial referrals were handled in the past twelve months. These are usually short-contact matters involving notices of Court hearings or inquiries about a parent's plan for his children. Each is important to the agency working with a family and must be dealt with quickly and with care.

Investigations and reports in these five categories of service are made as frequently on the Division's behalf by a Children's Aid Society as they are by Social Welfare Branch staff. The societies do not receive payment for this work, and the Branch is indeed grateful for the prompt and thoughtful manner in which the various reports are prepared.

PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL, INTERPROVINCIAL, AND LOCAL CHILD WELFARE PLANNING

The Superintendent again attended a meeting of the Provincial Directors of Child Welfare, held this year at Windsor, Ont. Six out of ten Provinces were represented, and while the Directors' conference is as yet not officially incorporated, it has, in the past four

years, been instrumental in bringing about improved interprovincial understanding and practice in many phases of child welfare. Throughout the past two years the Directors have been working closely with the Research Division of the Department of National Health and Welfare in its efforts to develop a method of reporting statistics which will give a more accurate picture of the numbers and reasons why children are in agency care. Another project the Directors are interested in is the achievement of more uniform adoption legislation throughout Canada. At present many differences exist in the various Acts in such major points as status and inheritance rights of the child. As the numbers of persons who will reach adulthood with the status of "adopted member of a family" is increasing yearly, it is imperative that their rights in all respects be protected, regardless of where they may reside or hold interests.

The Superintendent has continued participation in the Canadian Welfare Council and, as a member of a committee of the Council which has studied available services to unmarried mothers, shared in the satisfaction of a published pamphlet which sets forth clearly and concisely what these services should be and, in particular, how they must be extended to the non-resident unmarried mother if she and her child are to be protected.

A second committee of the Council, on which the Superintendent has served for some time, completed an extensive adoption legislation study. The completed report has received wide notice and should do much to stimulate an interest in the adopted child's needs and rights.

Locally, the Superintendent has been active with a committee of the Vancouver Community Chest and Council, which hopes to submit to the Legislature next year a newly drawn British Columbia Adoption Act.

The new fiscal year in the Child Welfare Division is to be one in which the Superintendent hopes to consolidate the services to children and to redefine goals and methods of achieving them. With the continued help and support of field staff, Children's Aid Societies, and other agencies, the Child Welfare Division will have contributions to make in this direction to the end that children dependent upon social-work agencies for care will be better served.

Respectfully submitted.

(MISS) RUBY MCKAY,
Superintendent of Child Welfare.

**OLD-AGE ASSISTANCE, BLIND PERSONS' ALLOWANCES, AND
DISABLED PERSONS' ALLOWANCES BOARDS****GENERAL**

The volume of work during the year under review was particularly heavy. The main causes of this were the coming into operation of "The Disabled Persons Act" as from April 1st, 1955, the amending of "The Blind Persons Act," which became effective in British Columbia as from January 1st, 1956, and the special attention given by the workers to the completion of the yearly field service reports. As a result, it was not possible to keep up with the volume of work, and to make matters worse the Board was troubled by a serious staff shortage.

It is interesting to note that the trend in both the receipt of Old-age Assistance applications and the number on payroll is still downward. A total of 2,281 were received, as compared with 2,728 the previous year, and the number on payroll, including transfers from other Provinces, stood at 7,441 on March 31st, 1956, compared with 7,869 on March 31st, 1955. Unlike Old-age Assistance, the number of applications received for Blind Allowance increased from sixty in the fiscal year 1954-55 to seventy-one in the current fiscal year. The total on the payroll, however, only increased by one (from 474 to 475) between March 31st, 1955, and March 31st, 1956. Since this is the first report to include information on Disabled Persons' Allowances, a separate section has been prepared to cover this group.

The figures relative to the cost-of-living bonus for persons 70 years of age and over also show a decline in the number of new applications received and the total on the payroll. There were 1,599 new applications received during the fiscal year ended March 31st, 1956, whereas 1,764 made application the previous year. As at the same date, there were 27,028 bonus recipients on payroll, including transfers from Alberta and Saskatchewan, as compared with 27,351 as at March 31st, 1955.

An analysis of the financial statement at the end of this report shows that the total expenditure on cost-of-living bonuses is slightly less than it was during the previous fiscal year. Although all categories show a decrease, the biggest drop, approximately \$84,000, took place in the Old Age Security bonus group, which indicates that many of the original old-age pensioners are dying off at a greater rate than new ones are coming on. To offset this decrease, however, approximately \$85,000 was paid in bonus to recipients of Disabled Persons' Allowance, which appears in the statement for the first time.

Since free health services are provided in addition to the bonus for all recipients of Old-age Assistance, Blind Persons' Allowance, Disabled Persons' Allowance, and Old Age Security bonus who can qualify, it means that the total amount paid by the Province in providing for the welfare of our elderly citizens is several million dollars a year.

CHANGES IN THE ACTS AND REGULATIONS

Although no changes took place during the year under review in "The Old Age Assistance Act," two significant revisions occurred in "The Blind Persons Act." The important differences, which became effective in British Columbia on January 1st, 1956, are as follows:—

- (1) The age limit was changed. The Blind Persons' Allowance can now be paid to any recipient who has attained the age of 18 years at the date of the proposed commencement of the allowance. Formerly the required age in order to be eligible was 21 years.
- (2) The annual maximum allowable income limits were raised. The categories defined with their new annual income ceilings are as follows:—
 - (a) An unmarried person with no dependents was raised from \$840 to \$960 a year, inclusive of the allowance.

(b) An unmarried person with a dependent child or children was raised from \$1,040 to \$1,160 a year, inclusive of the allowance.

(c) A married person living with his spouse was raised from \$1,320 to \$1,560 a year, inclusive of the allowance.

(d) A married person living with a blind spouse was raised from \$1,440 to \$1,680 a year, inclusive of the allowance.

It is of particular significance to note that although the Federal "Blind Persons Act" had certain sections repealed and new sections substituted, no corresponding changes were made in "The Old Age Assistance Act" or "The Disabled Persons Act" to coincide with the revised income ceilings in "The Blind Persons Act." Presumably these discrepancies will be rectified the next time a revision is made of "The Old Age Assistance Act" and "The Disabled Persons Act."

The annual maximum allowable income ceilings as set out in the cost-of-living bonus regulations were amended to correspond with the changes in "The Blind Persons Act." Any recipient of Blind Persons' Allowance continues to receive the full cost-of-living bonus if otherwise eligible.

"The Disabled Persons Act" became effective in British Columbia on April 1st, 1955. This Act is dealt with in this report under a separate section.

DISABLED PERSONS' ALLOWANCES

In March, 1955, an agreement was finalized between the Provincial Government and the Federal Government to provide allowances to totally and permanently disabled persons, 18 years of age or over, who have resided in Canada ten years immediately prior to the effective date of the allowance, and who, if single, have an income of less than \$720 a year, or, if married, have an income of less than \$1,200 a year. This Federal "Disabled Persons Act" and also the Provincial enabling "Disabled Persons' Allowances Act" became effective April 1st, 1955, in this Province. "The Disabled Persons Act" provides for an allowance up to a maximum of \$40 a month, payment of which is shared equally between the Federal and Provincial Governments. The primary purpose of the Act is to provide a measure of income maintenance for those permanently and totally disabled persons for whom rehabilitation or other forms of therapy offer no solution.

Administration of "The Disabled Persons Act" and regulations follows the same pattern as set for "The Old Age Assistance Act" and "The Blind Persons Act," except that, in addition to the administrative Board, provision is made for a Medical Advisory Committee consisting of a Provincial medical representative, a Federal medical representative, and a medical social worker. This Committee, on examination of the medical report of an applicant and a comprehensive social report, recommends to the Board whether or not the applicant should be considered as being totally and permanently disabled within the meaning of the regulations.

The initial medical report is completed by the applicant's own physician, and the cost of this service is borne by the applicant, except when the applicant is in receipt of Social Allowance. Payment in the latter case is made to the physician through the office of the Director of Medical Services.

The social report is prepared by the social worker. In many cases the medical report alone is not sufficient to establish total disability under the regulations, and the additional social investigation is required to furnish practical data regarding the applicant's ability to get along in his normal environment. The social report usually shows the severity of present limitations as they actually affect everyday life and the extent to which the applicant has overcome past limitations. For these reasons, a considerable degree of responsibility rests upon the social worker to report each situation adequately, a task which requires a fairly complete knowledge and understanding of social evaluation.

In some instances where the original evidence is not adequate for the Committee to arrive at a decision, it is necessary for further medical examinations to be completed by specialists. These examinations may entail consultations with specialists, X-ray examinations, laboratory tests, or even diagnostic procedures in a hospital. Provision is made for payment of these special medical examinations with their related transportation costs.

The regulations require that the Provincial authority shall, at least once in each year, cause an investigation to be made into the circumstances of the recipient to determine whether such recipient continues to be eligible and a further medical review or investigation to be made as the nature of the recipient's disability may require. To conform to these regulations, the Board, periodically, asks the district office to complete the annual investigation form on each recipient in its area.

Examination of the statistical tables indicates that the greatest number of Disabled Persons' Allowances was granted to comparatively young mentally defective single persons, living at home, without any assets or income. In the majority of these cases it was found necessary to appoint the parent as trustee to administer the allowance on behalf of the recipient. Actually, therefore, the issuance of the allowance has relieved parents, in a great number of cases, of the financial burden of their handicapped sons or daughters.

To supplement the allowance the Provincial Government extended the cost-of-living bonus regulations to provide payment of a full cost-of-living bonus to any recipient of Disabled Persons' Allowance who had completed three years' continuous residence in British Columbia immediately prior to the date of commencement of the allowance.

Health services, also, were extended to include any recipient of the allowance who had completed one year's continuous residence in British Columbia immediately prior to the date of commencement of the allowance.

GRAPHIC PRESENTATION COVERING THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1ST, 1952, TO MARCH 31ST, 1956

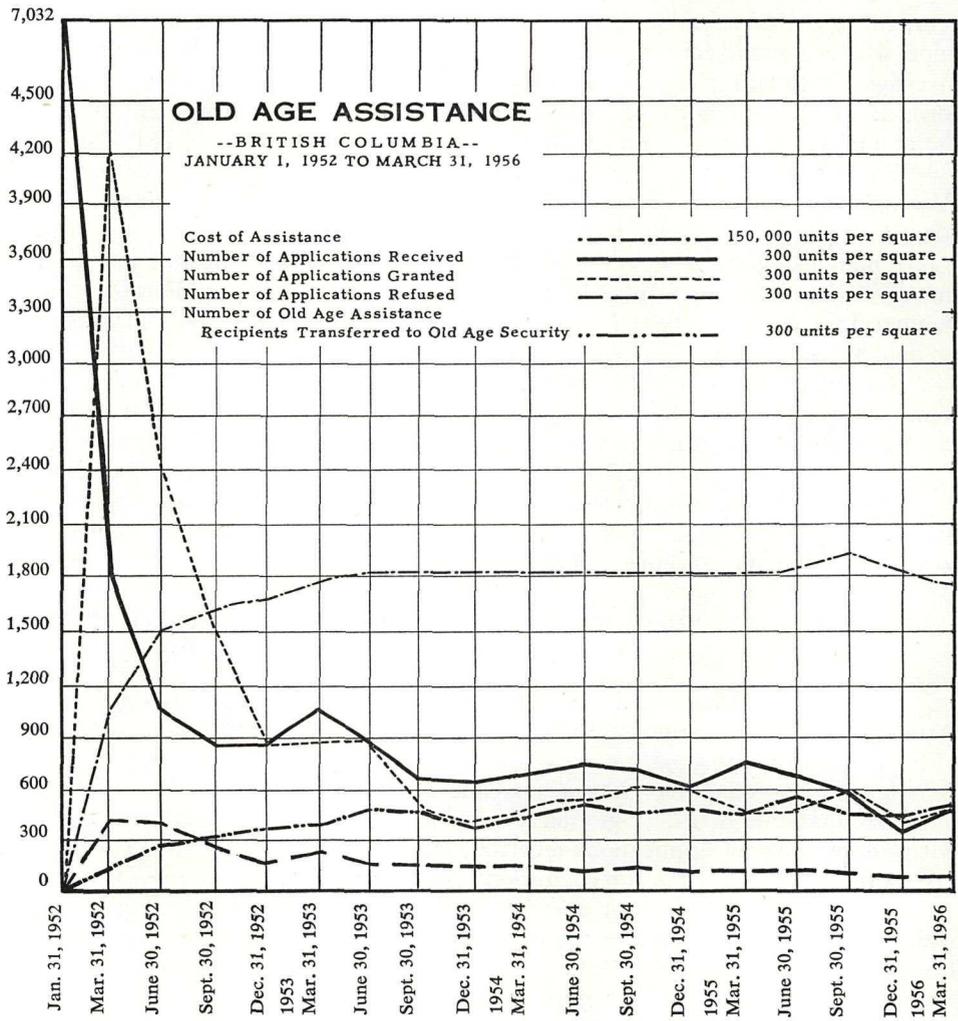
Following will be found a graphic presentation of the various aspects of Old-age Assistance since the coming into force of "The Old Age Assistance Act" in January, 1952.

It will be noted that the various line graphs are drawing closer together. This indicates that the Board is gradually moving toward a stabilized case load; namely, when the number of applications received, granted, and transferred to Old Age Security are more or less the same for each month.

The line graph denoting cost of Old-age Assistance shows a gradual decrease, which also indicates a decrease in the case load. The chief factor contributing to this trend at present is that all Old-age Assistance recipients are transferred to Old Age Security at age 70. The line graph showing the number of applications received gives an initial case load of over 7,000. The graph further indicates that only about half as many applications were received per annum in subsequent years. As all of the original 7,000 cases will have been transferred to Old Age Security by December 31st, 1956, and as the yearly number of new applications received since 1952 has gradually decreased, it is evident that the case load and cost will continue to decline if the present trend continues.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Table II portrays a parallel movement of recipients between British Columbia and other Provinces. It shows that approximately 65 per cent of British Columbia recipients going to other Provinces return to this Province and 60 per cent of "other Province" recipients coming to British Columbia return to their Province of origin.



However, the net result is that there are over twice as many recipients from other Provinces who continue to live in British Columbia as there are British Columbia recipients who continue to live in other Provinces.

This table also shows that the number of deaths between ages 65 and 70 is 325, which is 4.5 per cent of the total recipients. In other words, one out of every 22.3 persons in receipt of Old-age Assistance does not reach the age of 70.

A comparison of the number of reinstates to suspensions indicates that 41.4 per cent of the suspended cases are reinstated.

Table III outlines the reasons for not granting assistance. It will be noted that more than one-third of the refusals is because of excess income. The total of rejected cases is approximately 21 per cent of the total applications received.

An examination of Table V indicates that approximately 60 per cent of the recipients are of single status. Table X shows that approximately the same percentage do not own their own home, and Table XI shows that about the same number do not possess any real or personal property of value. Since only 40 per cent own their own homes, this indicates quite clearly that there is a definite need for other types of low-cost housing accommodation for older people. Also, the figures shown make it obvious that when constructing housing units for them greater emphasis should be placed on single units.

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31ST, 1956

OLD-AGE ASSISTANCE

Table I.—Disposition of Applications

Number of new applications received	2,281
Number of applications granted	2,079 ¹
Number of applications not granted (refused, withdrawn, etc.)	482

¹ Includes some left over from previous year.

Table II.—Miscellaneous

<i>(a) British Columbia—</i>	
Number of recipients returned to British Columbia	43
Number of B.C. reinstatements granted	150
Number of B.C. recipients who have died	325
Number of B.C. recipients suspended	362
Number of B.C. recipients transferred to other Provinces	66
Number of B.C. recipients transferred to Old Age Security	1,942
Total number of B.C. recipients on payroll at end of fiscal year	7,250
<i>(b) Other Province—</i>	
Number of "other Province" recipients transferred to British Columbia	129
Number of "other Province" recipients reinstated	3
Number of "other Province" recipients suspended	8
Number of "other Province" recipients who have died	4
Number of "other Province" recipients transferred out of British Columbia	77
Number of "other Province" recipients transferred to Old Age Security	65
<i>(c) Total number of recipients (B.C. and "other Province") on payroll at end of fiscal year</i>	<i>7,441</i>

Table III.—Reasons Why Applications Not Granted

	Number	Per Cent
Not of age	114	23.65
Unable to prove age	18	3.73
Not sufficient residence	9	1.87
Income in excess	161	33.40
Unable to prove residence	3	0.62
Transfer of property .....	.....	.....
Receiving War Veterans' Allowance	3	0.62
Information refused	25	5.19
Applications withdrawn	73	15.14
Applicants died before grant	36	7.47
Whereabouts unknown	15	3.12
Eligible for Old Age Security	23	4.77
Miscellaneous	2	0.42
Total	482	100.00

Table IV.—Sex of New Recipients

	Number	Per Cent
Male	993	47.76
Female	1,086	52.24
Total	2,079	100.00

Table V.—Marital Status of New Recipients

	Number	Per Cent
Married	814	39.15
Single	283	13.61
Widows	473	22.75
Widowers	144	6.93
Separated	327	15.73
Divorced	38	1.83
Total	2,079	100.00

Table VI.—Birthplace of New Recipients

	Number	Per Cent
British Columbia	139	6.69
Other parts of Canada	450	21.65
British Isles	585	28.14
Other parts of British Empire	18	0.86
United States of America	260	12.50
Other foreign countries	627	30.16
Total	2,079	100.00

Table VII.—Ages at Granting of Assistance

	Number	Per Cent
Age 65	1,113	53.54
Age 66	319	15.34
Age 67	264	12.69
Age 68	197	9.48
Age 69	186	8.95
Total	2,079	100.00

Table VIII.—Ages of Recipients at Death

	Number	Per Cent
Age 65	33	10.15
Age 66	42	12.92
Age 67	66	20.31
Age 68	99	30.46
Age 69	85	26.16
Total	325	100.00

Table IX.—With Whom New Recipients Live

	Number	Per Cent
Living alone	740	35.59
Living with spouse	640	30.78
Living with spouse and children	159	7.65
Living with children	296	14.24
Living with other relatives	111	5.34
Living with others	85	4.09
Living in public institutions	29	1.40
Living in private institutions	19	0.91
Total	2,079	100.00

Table X.—Where New Recipients Are Living

	Number	Per Cent
In own house	823	39.59
In rented house	252	12.12
In children's home	289	13.90
In home of other relatives	51	2.45
Boarding	66	3.17
In boarding home	12	0.58
In housekeeping room	310	14.91
In single room (eating out)	89	4.28
In rented suite	139	6.69
In institutions	48	2.31
Total	2,079	100.00

Table XI.—Economic Status of New Recipients

(a) Holding real property of value—	Number	Per Cent
\$0	1,273	61.22
\$1 to \$250	26	1.25
\$251 to \$500	59	2.84
\$501 to \$750	92	4.43
\$751 to \$1,000	101	4.86
\$1,001 to \$1,500	249	11.98
\$1,501 to \$2,000	118	5.68
\$2,001 and up	161	7.74
Total	2,079	100.00

(b) Holding personal property of value—	Number	Per Cent
\$0	1,031	49.58
\$1 to \$250	570	27.41
\$251 to \$500	173	8.32
\$501 to \$750	112	5.39
\$751 to \$1,000	71	3.43
\$1,001 to \$1,500	66	3.18
\$1,501 to \$2,000	30	1.44
\$2,001 and up	26	1.25
Total	2,079	100.00

Table XII.—Number of Recipients Living in Other Provinces as at March 31st, 1956, Whose Assistance Is Paid by British Columbia

	Granted by British Columbia	Granted by Other Provinces
Alberta	36	10
Saskatchewan	5	18
Manitoba	11	8
Ontario	11	14
Quebec	1	4
New Brunswick	—	—
Nova Scotia	1	1
Prince Edward Island	1	—
Newfoundland	—	—
Northwest Territories	—	—
Yukon Territory	—	—
Total	66	55

Table XIII.—Distribution of B.C. Recipients according to the Amount of Assistance Received (Basic Assistance, \$40)

Amount of Assistance	Per Cent
\$40	82.99
\$35 to \$39.99	3.98
\$30 to \$34.99	3.86
\$25 to \$29.99	2.76
\$20 to \$24.99	1.88
Less than \$19.99	4.53
Total	100.00

BLIND PERSONS' ALLOWANCES

Table I.—Disposition of Applications

Number of new applications received	71
Number of applications granted	56 ¹
Number of applications refused, withdrawn, etc.	14 ²

¹ Includes some left over from previous year.

² Number still pending not included.

Table II.—Miscellaneous

Number of B.C. recipients suspended	22
Number of B.C. recipients reinstated	11
Number of B.C. recipients transferred to other Provinces	4
Number of B.C. recipients returned to British Columbia	3
Number of B.C. recipients transferred to Old Age Security	23
Number of deaths of B.C. recipients	10
Number of deaths of "other Province" recipients	3
Number of "other Province" recipients transferred to British Columbia	3
Number of "other Province" recipients transferred out of Brit- ish Columbia or suspended	10
Number of "other Province" recipients reinstated	2
Total on payroll at end of fiscal year—	
British Columbia	455
Other Province	20
	— 475

Table III.—Reasons Why Applications Not Granted

	Number	Per Cent
Not blind within the meaning of the Act	3	21.43
Income in excess	4	28.57
Applications withdrawn	—	—
Eligible for Old Age Security	—	—
Died before grant	3	21.43
Receiving War Veterans' Allowance	—	—
Information refused	3	21.43
Assistance from private sources	1	7.14
Total	14	100.00

Table IV.—Sex of New Recipients

	Number	Per Cent
Male	30	53.57
Female	26	46.43
Total	56	100.00

Table V.—Marital Status of New Recipients

	Number	Per Cent
Married	21	37.50
Single	22	39.29
Widows	4	7.14
Widowers	2	3.57
Separated	7	12.50
Divorced	—	—
Total	56	100.00

Table VI.—Birthplace of New Recipients

	Number	Per Cent
British Columbia	22	39.28
Other parts of Canada	14	25.00
British Isles	7	12.50
Other parts of British Empire	—	—
United States of America	1	1.79
Other foreign countries	12	21.43
Total	56	100.00

Table VII.—Ages at Granting of Allowance

	Number	Per Cent
Age 21	11	19.64
Ages 22 to 30	5	8.93
Ages 31 to 40	5	8.93
Ages 41 to 50	6	10.72
Ages 51 to 60	11	19.64
Ages 61 to 69	18	32.14
Total	56	100.00

Table VIII.—Ages of Recipients at Death

	Number	Per Cent
Age 21	—	—
Ages 22 to 30	1	10.00
Ages 31 to 40	1	10.00
Ages 41 to 50	—	—
Ages 51 to 60	2	20.00
Ages 61 to 69	6	60.00
Total	10	100.00

Table IX.—With Whom New Recipients Live

	Number	Per Cent
Living with parents	8	14.29
Living alone	8	14.29
Living with spouse	13	23.21
Living with spouse and children	7	12.50
Living with children	3	5.36
Living with other relatives	9	16.06
Living with others	6	10.72
Living in public institutions	2	3.57
Living in private institutions	—	—
Total	56	100.00

Table X.—Where New Recipients Are Living

	Number	Per Cent
In parents' home	12	21.43
In own home	10	17.85
In rented house	7	12.50
In rented suite	6	10.72
In children's home	2	3.57
In other relatives' homes	7	12.50
Boarding	5	8.93
In housekeeping room	3	5.36
In boarding home		
In institutions	2	3.57
In single room (eating out)	2	3.57
	—	—
Total	56	100.00
	==	==

Table XI.—Economic Status of New Recipients

(a) Holding real property of value—	Number	Per Cent
\$0	44	78.57
\$1 to \$250		
\$251 to \$500		
\$501 to \$750	3	5.36
\$751 to \$1,000	2	3.57
\$1,001 to \$1,500	4	7.14
\$1,501 to \$2,000	3	5.36
\$2,001 and up		
	—	—
Total	56	100.00
	==	==
(b) Holding personal property of value—		
\$0	35	62.50
\$1 to \$250	8	14.29
\$251 to \$500	2	3.56
\$501 to \$750	5	8.93
\$751 to \$1,000		
\$1,001 to \$1,500	1	1.79
\$1,501 to \$2,000	1	1.79
\$2,001 and up	4	7.14
	—	—
Total	56	100.00
	==	==

Table XII.—Number of Recipients Living in Other Provinces as at March 31st, 1956,
Whose Allowances Are Paid by This Province

	Granted by British Columbia	Granted by Other Provinces
Alberta	---	3
Saskatchewan	---	2
Manitoba	---	---
Ontario	---	---
Quebec	---	---
New Brunswick	---	1
Nova Scotia	1	---
Prince Edward Island	---	---
Newfoundland	---	---
Northwest Territories	---	---
Yukon Territory	---	---
Total	1	8

Table XIII.—Distribution of B.C. Recipients according to the Amount of Allowance
Received (Basic Allowance, \$40)

	Per Cent
\$40	94.06
\$35 to \$39.99	3.52
\$30 to \$34.99 .....	.88
\$25 to \$29.99 .....	.22
\$20 to \$24.99 .....	.66
\$19.99 and less .....	.66
Total	100.00

DISABLED PERSONS' ALLOWANCES

Table I.—Disposition of Applications

Number of new applications received	1,326
Number of applications granted	725
Number of applications refused, withdrawn, etc.	308

Table II.—Miscellaneous

Number of B.C. recipients suspended	14
Number of B.C. recipients reinstated	---
Number of B.C. recipients transferred to other Provinces	3
Number of B.C. recipients returned to British Columbia	---
Number of B.C. recipients transferred to Old Age Security	---
Number of deaths of B.C. recipients	12
Number of deaths of "other Province" recipients	1
Number of "other Province" recipients transferred to British Columbia	11
Number of "other Province" recipients transferred out of British Columbia or suspended	1
Number of "other Province" recipients reinstated	---
Total on payroll at end of fiscal year—	
British Columbia	696
Other Province	9

Table III.—Reasons Why Applications Not Granted

	Number	Per Cent
Not 18 years of age	2	0.65
Unable to prove age	-----	-----
Not sufficient residence	-----	-----
Unable to prove residence	-----	-----
Too much income	23	7.45
Transfer of property	-----	-----
Refused information	5	1.64
Whereabouts unknown	1	.32
Allowance under "Blind Persons Act"	1	.32
Assistance under "Old-age Assistance Act"	-----	-----
Allowance under "War Veterans' Allowance Act"	-----	-----
Pension under "Old Age Security Act"	-----	-----
Mothers' Allowance	1	.32
Unable to meet medical test	200	64.94
Referred for rehabilitation	32	10.39
Tuberculosis sanatorium	-----	-----
Mental hospital	4	1.30
Home for the aged	-----	-----
Infirmery	-----	-----
Institution for incurables	-----	-----
Hospital	7	2.27
Nursing home	4	1.30
Other institutions	5	1.64
Application withdrawn	16	5.19
Died before grant	7	2.27
	-----	-----
Total	308	100.00
	=====	=====

Table IV.—Primary Causes of Disability on Accepted Cases

	Per Cent
Infective and parasitic diseases	4.76
Neoplasms	1.51
Allergic, endocrine system, metabolic, and nutritional diseases	3.94
Diseases of blood and blood-forming organs	0.23
Mental, psychoneurotic, and personality disorders	37.82
Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs	34.68
Diseases of the circulatory system	4.76
Diseases of the respiratory system	0.81
Diseases of the digestive system	-----
Diseases of genito-urinary system	0.23
Diseases of the skin and cellular tissue	0.12
Diseases of the bones and organs of movement	7.77
Congenital malformations	1.28
Symptoms, senility, and ill-defined conditions	-----
Accidents, poisoning, and violence (nature of injury)	2.09

Total	100.00
	=====

Table V.—Sex of New Recipients

	Number	Per Cent
Male	371	51.17
Female	354	48.83
Total	725	100.00

Table VI.—Marital Status of New Recipients

	Number	Per Cent
Married	77	10.62
Single	583	80.41
Widow	27	3.72
Widower	6	0.83
Separated	22	3.04
Divorced	10	1.38
Total	725	100.00

Table VII.—Birthplace of New Recipients

	Number	Per Cent
British Columbia	289	39.86
Other parts of Canada	284	39.17
British Isles	87	12.00
Other parts of British Empire	4	0.55
United States of America	25	3.46
Other foreign countries	36	4.96
Total	725	100.00

Table VIII.—Ages at Granting of Allowance

	Number	Per Cent
Ages 18 to 19	42	5.79
Ages 20 to 24	105	14.48
Ages 25 to 29	88	12.14
Ages 30 to 34	86	11.86
Ages 35 to 39	84	11.59
Ages 40 to 44	74	10.20
Ages 45 to 49	52	7.17
Ages 50 to 54	59	8.14
Ages 55 to 59	55	7.59
Ages 60 to 64	77	10.62
Ages 65 to 69	—	—
Ages over 70	3	0.42
Total	725	100.00

Table IX.—Ages of Recipients at Death

	Number	Per Cent
Ages 18 to 19	-----	-----
Ages 20 to 24	2	16.67
Ages 25 to 29	-----	-----
Ages 30 to 34	3	25.01
Ages 35 to 39	1	8.33
Ages 40 to 44	1	8.33
Ages 45 to 49	1	8.33
Ages 50 to 54	2	16.67
Ages 55 to 59	-----	-----
Ages 60 to 64	1	8.33
Ages 65 to 69	-----	-----
Ages over 70	1	8.33
Total	12	100.00

Table X.—With Whom Recipients Live

	Number	Per Cent
Living with parents	473	65.24
Living alone	43	5.93
Living with spouse	50	6.90
Living with spouse and children	26	3.59
Living with children	22	3.03
Living with other relatives	93	12.82
Living with others	18	2.49
Living in public institution	-----	-----
Living in private institution	-----	-----
Total	725	100.00

Table XI.—Where New Recipients Are Living

	Number	Per Cent
In parents' home	455	62.76
In own house	61	8.41
In rented house	23	3.17
In rented suite	40	5.52
In children's home	25	3.45
In other relatives' home	86	11.86
Boarding	12	1.66
In housekeeping room	18	2.48
In boarding home	-----	-----
In institutions	-----	-----
In single room (eating out)	5	0.69
Total	725	100.00

Table XII.—Economic Status of New Recipients

(a) Holding real property of value—	Number	Per Cent
\$0	655	90.34
\$1 to \$250	2	0.28
\$251 to \$500	4	0.55
\$501 to \$750	4	0.55
\$751 to \$1,000	9	1.24
\$1,001 to \$1,500	22	3.04
\$1,501 to \$2,000	10	1.38
\$2,001 and up	19	2.62
Total	725	100.00
<hr/>		
(b) Holding personal property of value—		
\$0	575	79.30
\$1 to \$250	99	13.65
\$251 to \$500	22	3.03
\$501 to \$750	7	0.97
\$751 to \$1,000	2	0.28
\$1,001 to \$1,500	7	0.97
\$1,501 to \$2,000	1	0.14
\$2,001 and up	12	1.66
Total	725	100.00

Table XIII.—Number of Recipients Living in Other Provinces as at March 31st, 1956, Whose Allowances Are Paid by This Province

	Granted by British Columbia	Granted by Other Provinces
Alberta	---	1
Saskatchewan	---	4
Manitoba	1	---
Ontario	1	---
Quebec	---	---
New Brunswick	---	---
Nova Scotia	---	---
Prince Edward Island	---	---
Newfoundland	---	---
Total	2	5

Table XIV.—Distribution of British Columbia Recipients according to the Amount of Allowance Received (Basic Allowance, \$40)

	Per Cent
\$40	93.89
\$35 to \$39.99	0.87
\$30 to \$34.99	2.04
\$25 to \$29.99	0.87
\$20 to \$24.99	0.29
\$19.99 and less	2.04
Total	100.00

COST-OF-LIVING BONUS AND HEALTH SERVICES

New Applications

Number received	1,599
Number granted bonus and health services	700
Number granted bonus only	2
Number granted health services only	67
Number who died before application was granted	20
Number of applications withdrawn	53
Number of applicants ineligible	154
Number of applications pending	603
Total	1,599

General Information

Former old-age pensioners still receiving cost-of-living bonus on March 31st, 1956	15,511
Old-age Assistance recipients transferred to Old Age Security receiving cost-of-living bonus on March 31st, 1956	5,492
New Old Age Security pensioners receiving cost-of-living bonus on March 31st, 1956	4,232
Blind persons in receipt of Old Age Security receiving cost-of-living bonus on March 31st, 1956	221

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

"THE OLD AGE ASSISTANCE ACT," YEAR ENDED MARCH 31ST, 1956

	Assistance	Cost-of-living Bonus	Total
Total amount paid recipients in British Columbia	\$3,602,743.68	\$1,140,685.79	\$4,743,429.47
<i>Less</i> amount of refunds from recipients—			
Overpayments refunded	\$19,291.41	\$2,623.74	\$21,915.15
Miscellaneous refunds	354.30	135.00	489.30
Totals	\$19,645.71	\$2,758.74	\$22,404.45
Net amount paid to recipients in British Columbia	\$3,583,097.97	\$1,137,927.05	\$4,721,025.02
<i>Add</i> amount paid other Provinces on account of recipients for whom British Columbia is responsible	29,245.81	5,167.25	34,413.06
<i>Less</i> amount received by British Columbia on account of recipients for whom other Provinces are responsible	63,316.90	12,290.31	75,607.21
<i>Less</i> amount refunded by the Federal Government	1,794,789.30		1,794,789.30
Total amount paid by British Columbia	\$1,754,237.58	\$1,130,803.99	\$2,885,041.57

"THE BLIND PERSONS ACT," YEAR ENDED MARCH 31ST, 1956

	Allowances	Cost-of-living Bonus	Total
Total amount paid recipients in British Columbia	\$222,817.22	\$75,090.46	\$297,907.68
<i>Less amount of refunds from recipients—Over-</i> <i>payments refunded</i>	426.98	165.00	591.98
Net amount paid to recipients in British Colum- bia	\$222,390.24	\$74,925.46	\$297,315.70
<i>Add amount paid other Provinces on account</i> <i>of recipients for whom British Columbia is</i> <i>responsible</i>	1,028.84	165.00	1,193.84
<i>Less amount received by British Columbia on</i> <i>account of recipients for whom other Prov-</i> <i>inces are responsible</i>	2,862.90	2,474.00	5,336.90
<i>Less amount refunded by the Federal Govern-</i> <i>ment</i>	166,775.68		166,775.68
Total amount paid by British Colum- bia	\$53,780.50	\$72,616.46	\$126,396.96

"THE DISABLED PERSONS ACT," YEAR ENDED MARCH 31ST, 1956

	Allowances	Cost-of-living Bonus	Total
Total amount paid recipients in British Columbia	\$231,180.56	\$85,566.11	\$316,746.67
<i>Less amount of refunds from recipients—</i> <i>Overpayments refunded</i>	98.80	30.00	128.80
<i>Miscellaneous refunds</i>	40.00	15.00	55.00
Totals	\$138.80	\$45.00	\$183.80
Net amount paid to recipients in British Colum- bia	\$231,041.76	\$85,521.11	\$316,562.87
<i>Add amount paid other Provinces on account</i> <i>of recipients for whom British Columbia is</i> <i>responsible</i>	1,254.00		1,254.00
<i>Less amount received by British Columbia on</i> <i>account of recipients for whom other Prov-</i> <i>inces are responsible</i>	2,768.30		2,768.30
<i>Less amount refunded by the Federal Govern-</i> <i>ment</i>	115,520.91		115,520.91
Total amount paid by British Colum- bia	\$114,006.55	\$85,521.11	\$199,527.66

OLD AGE SECURITY PENSIONERS—COST-OF-LIVING BONUS,
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31ST, 1956

Total amount paid recipients in British Columbia.....	\$4,460,099.74
Less amount of refunds from recipients—	
Overpayments refunded	14,097.78
Miscellaneous refunds	329.55
Total	<u>\$14,427.33</u>
Net amount paid to recipients in British Columbia....	\$4,445,672.41
Add amount paid other Provinces on account of recipients for whom British Columbia is responsible	39,792.01
Less amount received by British Columbia on account of recipients for whom other Provinces are responsible	190,552.84
Total amount paid by British Columbia....	<u><u>\$4,294,911.58</u></u>

“ THE OLD AGE PENSIONS ACT,” YEAR ENDED MARCH 31ST, 1956

Amount of refunds from pensioners and estates—	Pensions	Cost-of-living Bonus	Total
From estates	\$11,570.58	\$120.00	\$11,690.58
Less amount refunded to the Federal Government	8,677.90	.....	8,677.90
Total net refunds received by British Columbia	<u>\$2,892.68¹</u>	<u>\$120.00¹</u>	<u>\$3,012.68¹</u>

¹ Credit.

ADMINISTRATION EXPENSE

Salaries and special services	\$165,415.28
Office expense	43,491.93
Travelling expense	444.12
Incidentals and contingencies	463.33
Equipment and furniture	547.96
Medical examinations	1,470.12
Total	<u><u>\$211,832.74</u></u>

SUMMARY

Cost-of-living Bonus

“ Old-age Pension Act ”	(Credit)	\$120.00
“ Old-age Assistance Act ”		1,130,803.99
“ Blind Persons’ Allowances Act ”		72,616.46
“ Disabled Persons’ Allowances Act ”		85,521.11
Universal Old Age Security		4,294,911.58
As per Public Accounts		<u><u>\$5,583,733.14</u></u>

Administration and Assistance

Administration	\$211,832.74
"Old-age Pension Act" (Credit)	2,892.68
"Old-age Assistance Act"	1,754,237.58
"Blind Persons' Allowances Act"	53,780.50
"Disabled Persons' Allowances Act"	114,006.55
	<hr/>
As per Public Accounts	\$2,130,964.69
	<hr/> <hr/>

MEMBERS OF BOARD

The following are the members of the Old-age Assistance Board of the Province of British Columbia:—

Chairman: Mr. E. W. Berry.

Members: Mr. J. A. Sadler, Director of Welfare; Mr. R. Talbot, Administrator, Region II, Social Welfare Branch.

CONCLUSION

In concluding this report the Board wishes to express its sincere appreciation for the loyal and efficient work of the staff and the field service throughout a difficult year, and for assistance so willingly given by other departments of government and various outside agencies.

Respectfully submitted.

E. W. BERRY,
Chairman.

MEDICAL SERVICES DIVISION

I dislike writing annual reports. I realize they are a necessity created by the need to tell of the activities under my direction, but I still dislike them. I have tried to analyse the reason for my attitude. Surely it is not the work of compiling statistics. No, they are there for the asking. Certainly it is not the effort of dictating this. The actual typing of the report is not a problem to the writer. Well, what is the reason? It is the knowledge that a report of the Medical Division cannot begin to portray to the reader the heart-break and the heart-balm. It does not show the daily problems the staff have to face. It cannot convey to the reader, unless he is directly associated with this work, the limitations, the difficulties, the frustrations, and the satisfaction of a job well done. It is too cold. "As every noble deed dieth, if suppressed in silence" (Pindar), I beg to report:—

The two governments (Provincial and municipal) have paid \$1,518,274.51 to the British Columbia Division of the Canadian Medical Association for services to Provincial welfare cases. By means of this the doctor received 54 per cent of his assessed submitted accounts. In spite of the fact that this large sum of money was spent by the governments, the doctors performing these services contributed nearly an equivalent amount (46 per cent). Nowhere can one find a comparable example of charity in its true sense for any professional group. One records with pleasure the splendid relationship that exists between the association and the Division. The assistance and co-operation given freely and generously by their executive secretary and executive council are most sincerely appreciated.

The citizens of this Province are indeed fortunate in that the spirit of *Æsculapius* still flourishes. Administrators of the Branch are most grateful to the doctors. They feel certain that the Medical Association has the thanks and blessings of all applicants, their patients.

Table I.—*Categorical Breakdown of Medical Coverage, 1954-55 and 1955-56*

Category	1954-55				1955-56			
	Number Covered Monthly, Apr. 1, 1954, to June 30, 1954	Number Covered Monthly, July 1, 1954, to Sept. 30, 1954	Number Covered Monthly, Oct. 1, 1954, to Dec. 31, 1954	Number Covered Monthly, Jan. 1, 1955, to Mar. 31, 1955	Number Covered Monthly, Apr. 1, 1955, to June 30, 1955	Number Covered Monthly, July 1, 1955, to Sept. 30, 1955	Number Covered Monthly, Oct. 1, 1955, to Dec. 31, 1955	Number Covered Monthly, Jan. 1, 1956, to Mar. 31, 1956
Mothers' Allowances.....	1,466	1,431	1,371	1,371	1,347	1,246	1,174	1,135
Social Allowances.....	17,332	17,416	17,910	18,704	18,728	17,850	17,565	18,047
Child Welfare Division.....	3,135	3,190	3,267	3,276	3,301	3,354	3,279	3,284
Old Age Security bonus and Blind Persons' Allowances.....	37,446	37,266	37,308	37,209	36,965	36,787	36,698	36,475
Old-age Assistance.....	8,860	8,936	8,853	8,720	8,612	8,546	8,429	8,204
Disabled Persons' Allowances.....	-----	-----	-----	-----	136	381	577	716
Average monthly coverage on quarterly basis.....	68,239	68,239	68,709	69,280	69,089	68,164	67,722	67,861

Average monthly coverage on yearly basis: 1954-55, 68,513; 1955-56, 68,209.

Per capita cost on yearly basis: 1954-55, \$20; 1955-56, \$22.50.

Total yearly cost: 1954-55, \$1,359,212.98; 1955-56, \$1,518,274.51.

The Branch has spent \$896,889.68 for drugs and medicine for the year; \$823,002.90 was paid to the druggists and \$73,886.78 was spent through the Provincial Pharmacy. What does one gather from these figures? Does one read here the normal desire of humans to stay well and young? Does one see the ever-recurring number of demands created by inactivity, illness, or social change manifested by psychosomatic symptoms requiring expensive tranquillizers? Can one deduce from these figures how much was spent to alleviate pain, or how much was spent to put the ever-rotating brain to rest and

sleep? Can any deduction be drawn how much was spent for organic disease, or how much was spent to try to whip up an appetite for an individual with a limited income? No, they are just figures. "In the ills of men, there is none sorer than necessity" (Sophocles).

However, here the Branch faces a most trying and delicate situation. The practice of dispensing has changed over the years. The day in which the majority of drug-stores dispensed chiefly items indicated by their profession is gone. They have converted to or are in the process of changing into miniature department stores. Only a few years ago 80 per cent of prescriptions were compounded by the pharmacist and 20 per cent were prepared by manufacturing companies to be dispensed by the pharmacist. This has practically reversed in that 80 per cent are prepared by the manufacturing companies and 20 per cent are compounded by the pharmacist. The cost of drugs and medicines has risen to such heights that makes comparisons odious. Yet the Branch must supply required medicines, otherwise the doctor is like a mechanic without tools. There are definite reasons for this rise. It has been influenced by the rapid advances in science and social and economic factors too numerous to enumerate here. However, this rise has created so many problems both to the druggist and to the public that it will most likely have to be attacked and dealt with in an heroic fashion or crash by its own weight. With the executive of the British Columbia Pharmaceutical Association, the Medical Director is in the process of examining the situation.

Table II.—Medicines Supplied through Drug-stores, 1955-56

Total number of prescriptions.....	399,367
Average charge per prescription.....	\$2.135
Average number of prescriptions per applicant.....	5.85
Cost of medicines through drug-stores....	\$823,002.90
Cost of medicines through Provincial Pharmacy	\$73,886.78
<hr/>	
Total cost of drugs.....	\$896,889.68
Average charge per prescription according to type of medicine:—	
Analgesic	\$1.745
Cardiac	2.662
Digestive	1.809
Eye, ear, nose, and throat	1.539
Hormones	2.095
Respiratory	2.287
Skin	1.437
Vitamins	3.009
Miscellaneous	2.483

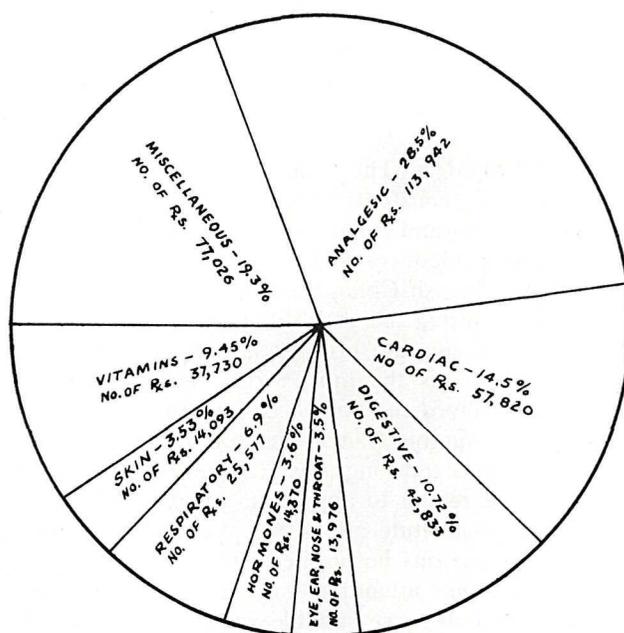


Fig. 1. Percentage utilization of drugs (according to type of medicine).

The item "eye services" comprises:—

- (a) Eye examination:—
 - (i) Examination and refraction by eye doctors:
 - (ii) Refraction by optometrists:
- (b) Treatment (medical and surgical) performed by ophthalmologists (eye doctors).

The major cost of this is included in the over-all agreement with the British Columbia Division of the Canadian Medical Association. The Branch has an arrangement with the British Columbia Optometric Association to perform refractions at the request of the family doctor. In the past year the Director has met with the executive of the British Columbia Optometric Association to discuss the agreement with them. No radical changes were possible, but several small irritations were ironed out. One observes that the Branch has spent \$39,245.86 for glasses and has paid \$9,096.05 to the optometrists, but does one gather that refractions are just part of the eye services? Is the rate of examination high? No. Eye pathology is more prone to occur in the senior age-group. Sight changes are bound to take place more frequently and at a more rapid pace. Surely the cost is greater for this age-group—the figures show that—but do they show the added comforts provided to those whose recreational facilities are limited? Do they show the improved morale produced by supplying an artificial eye to one who has lost his or her eye through disease?

Dental Services, \$119,512.74.—It is with satisfaction that the Director reports \$15,385.80 of this sum was spent on prophylactic dentistry. This increasing amount is a step in the right direction. It should eventually pay dividends in good health and perhaps decrease the demands on replacements (dentures). The over-all picture of last year is still grossly disproportionate. Perhaps the Division is impatient, but it is its aim and hope to spend more for dental education and prophylaxis and less for dentures. The Director has attempted on several occasions to arrive at a more satisfactory arrangement to provide a complete dental service on a Provincial basis with the British Columbia Dental Association comparable to the medical plan, but he is sorry to report

he has been unsuccessful. Does the reader grasp that dental service is limited by the definite shortage of dentists throughout the Province? Does he feel the still-existing profession's scepticism of governments and politicians? Does a report indicate the difficulties in providing this service to such a volume of people spread thinly throughout such a large area?

Transportation, \$22,504.83.—The transportation charges for cancer patients (\$3,539.82) remain reasonably constant. This money is spent to bring the applicant to the closest centre for diagnosis and treatment or follow-up examination. For the first contact this means usually to Vancouver. However, for the follow-up examinations the Branch collaborates with the British Columbia Cancer Institute, which has a travelling clinic of specialists who visit during the year different centres throughout the Province, and patients to be seen in that area are brought into the centre for examination. This has proven most successful and is the most economical method of dealing with the problem. The Branch has received the utmost co-operation from this clinic. Since the establishment of the British Columbia Cancer Institute nursing home, its work has been facilitated, but there still remains too long a waiting period for cases due to shortage of beds. It is impossible for the reader to appreciate the psychology of a patient waiting for an appointment at a cancer institute. It is one of anxiousness and dread; the longer the waiting period, the more anxious he or she becomes.

It has come to the Division's attention that a growing problem is the care of the terminal case. It is most obvious some suitable arrangement will have to be made for these cases because of the great amount of care these people can require of a specialized type and often of a trying nature. The present method of handling of cases in this latter category could be given as a good example of "man's inhumanity to man," but "Time as he grows old teaches many lessons" (*Æschylus*).

One will observe that the item "general transportation" is substantial. This is no surprise, and the Director feels it will continue to increase. It is readily understandable because of the recent rapid advance in medicine; the increased thinking and leaning toward rehabilitation and correction of deformities; the greater utilization of the Branch medical scheme; and the increase in the ageing population of the Province. These all add to the picture. One of the features that should be brought to the attention of general administration is the number of cases during the past year whose illnesses have been so serious, requiring escorts, which trebles the transportation costs of a case.

Disabled Persons' Allowances.—In Table I will be noted the appearance of a new subdivision in medical coverage, Disabled Persons' Allowances. This allowance was brought into being April 1st, 1955, when the Federal Government and the Provincial Government agreed to pay \$40 per month on a shareable basis to those applicants qualifying for this form of assistance. In addition to the pension, the Provincial Government allows a cost-of-living bonus and pays for medical services (under the medical coverage agreement) and all ancillary services. During the year 725 cases were granted the allowance, and of these, 716 received the cost-of-living bonus and medical benefits. It is of interest to note that of the 725 cases, 333 were formerly covered through some form of social assistance plus medical services (for this group the Branch paid the costs of the initial medical examination which initiated the application for this allowance), and 392 were new cases. There is no doubt that to the latter group (392) the provision of medical services is a blessing. One important accomplishment in the introduction of this Act is that, through the review of the applications, many who have borne their affliction in hopeless silence as incurable will be found, and no doubt will be made more comfortable or even improved through the rehabilitation facilities sponsored by the Government.

Rehabilitation.—Rehabilitation in its widest interpretation is being carried out daily by the worker in the field. The Division is being informed of such situations and works with the social worker in the interest of the applicant. There were during the year

forty-one cases dealt with of special note. As the Branch is aware, there is in Vancouver the Western Society for Rehabilitation, located at 900 West Twenty-seventh Avenue. This was started by a group of energetic citizens a number of years ago. The institution was utilized chiefly in the rehabilitation of polio victims, but has recently widened its scope. All applications for care in the institution that are to be sponsored by the Government are considered by a special committee consisting of the Assistant Regional Administrator of Region II, the medical social worker of the Division, and the Medical Director. Forty-one cases were admitted, with an average of 3.2 months' residence and 3.3 months' outdoor care. The following table shows these cases according to their diagnosis:—

Diagnosis	Number of Cases
Polio	7
Paraplegia	8
Hæmiplegia	7
Cerebral palsy	2
Miscellaneous group (arthritis, etc.)	17
	—
Total	41

Travelling Clinics.—There are specialized medical groups, as listed below, which travel throughout the Province bringing to the areas they visit medical assistance which is only available in larger centres (such as in Vancouver). The Branch collaborated with these clinical groups in the interest of its cases located in the regions covered. The following table lists the clinics by name and number and the location of the treatment centres:—

Name of Clinic and Treatment Centre	Number of Clinics
<i>Travelling and Consultative Clinics, 1955-56</i>	
British Columbia Cancer Institute—	
Cranbrook	6
Kamloops	5
Kelowna	12
Nanaimo	12
Nelson	6
Penticton	12
Prince George	3
Prince Rupert	2
Trail	6
Vernon	12
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Name of Clinic and Treatment Centre	Number of Clinics
Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society (British Columbia Division)—	
Campbell River	2
Courtenay	2
Cranbrook	2
Creston	2
Dawson Creek	1
Fort St. John	1
Kelowna	1
Kimberley	2
Nanaimo	1
Nelson	2
Penticton	1
Port Alberni	2
Prince George	1
Prince Rupert	1
Sardis	1
Trail	2
Vanderhoof	1
Vernon	1
Powell River	1
	— 27
Children's Hospital—	
Okanagan	2
Kootenays	2
Peace River	1
Prince George	1
	— 6

The Division has received information that steps are being taken to organize a travelling clinic covering eye, ear, nose, and throat in the immediate future.

Table III.—Comparative Breakdown of Expenditures for Fiscal Years 1954-55 and 1955-56

	1954-55			1955-56		
	Expenditure	Municipalities and Other Sources	Provincial Government	Expenditure	Municipalities and Other Sources	Provincial Government
Suspense.....	\$3,623.59	\$3,282.34	\$341.25	\$3,979.19	\$4,199.45	\$220.26 ¹
Medical—						
Agreement.....	1,359,212.98	230,753.60	1,128,459.38	1,518,274.51	255,106.93	1,263,167.58
Immigrants.....	1,257.63	614.36	643.27	701.89	224.89	477.00
Other.....	2,457.60	—	2,457.60	4,682.00	87.27	4,594.73
Drugs.....	702,090.43	—	—	823,002.90	—	—
Optometric examinations.....	9,090.55	128,568.19	621,596.58	9,096.05	149,185.79	722,159.02
Glasses.....	38,983.79	—	—	39,245.86	—	—
Dental—						
Prophylaxis.....	14,017.99	—	14,017.99	15,385.80	25.00	15,360.80
Extractions.....	7,845.05	31.40	7,813.65	8,570.90	14.60	8,556.30
Dentures.....	90,855.99	2,082.20	88,773.79	95,556.04	2,020.37	93,535.67
Transportation—						
Cancer.....	4,492.46	199.09	4,293.37	3,539.82	152.70	3,387.12
Crease Clinic.....	114.07	—	114.07	516.31	102.84	413.47
Other.....	19,285.22	498.41	18,786.81	18,448.70	706.17	17,742.53
Sundry.....	9,561.52	154.82	9,406.70	8,649.43	29.77	8,619.66
Physiotherapy.....	269.70	—	269.70	105.10	—	105.10
Dispensary.....	51,741.07	883.00	50,858.07	73,886.78	3,532.80	70,353.98
Totals.....	\$2,314,899.64	\$367,067.41	\$1,947,832.23	\$2,623,641.28	\$415,388.58	\$2,208,252.70

¹ Credit.

The Medical Director wishes to record with pleasure the continued good relationship existing between the Division and the various organizations with whom it is in constant contact during the year.

My personal thanks to the senior officials in the Government for their sustaining inspiration and faith, and to the staff for their efforts on behalf of those the Division serves. In submitting this report, I do so with the hymn—

*Precious Lord
Take our hand,
Lead us on.*

Respectfully submitted.

J. C. MOSCOVICH, M.D.,
Director.

PART III.—INSTITUTIONS

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR BOYS

I beg to submit the annual report for the Brannen Lake School for Boys for the period ended March 31st, 1956.

	Fiscal Year									
	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49	1949-50	1950-51	1951-52	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56
Number in School, April 1st.....	76	56	95	89	79	104	104	101	96	131
Number A.W.O.L., April 1st.....	10	2	7	14	13	15	19	4	15	9
Number in Crease Clinic, April 1st.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Number in Oakalla, April 1st.....	4	1	3	1	—	1	3	1	2	19
Number on extended leave, April 1st.....	2	—	3	3	—	—	—	4	2	33
Number of new admissions.....	—	129	102	86	130	121	118	105	171	143
Number of recidivists.....	—	29	23	25	26	31	23	17	32	24
Total number of admissions.....	69 ¹	158	125	111	156	152	141	122	203	167
Percentage of recidivism.....	—	18.4	18.4	22.5	16.7	20.4	16.3	13.9	15.8	14.4
Number of releases.....	88	119	126	126	128	146	155	119	126	212
Number A.W.O.L., March 31st.....	2	7	14	13	15	19	4	15	9	1
Number in Crease Clinic, March 31st.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Number in Oakalla, March 31st.....	1	3	1	—	1	3	1	2	19	(²)
Number on extended leave, March 31st.....	—	3	3	—	—	—	4	2	33	17
Number in School, March 31st.....	56	95	89	79	104	104	101	96	131	129
Average daily population.....	53.3	74.6	86	81.7	82	84.3	100.6	102.4	101.9	137.6
Total inmate-days.....	19,456	27,295	31,408	29,808	30,011	30,865	36,721	37,383	37,198	50,371
Average length of stay in months.....	(³)	5.5	8	10	(³)	(³)	9	9.5	(³)	8.3
Total A.W.O.L.'s during the fiscal year.....	(³)	(^{3})	(^{3})	(^{3})	(^{3})	(^{3})	281	432	239	124

¹ Recidivists included. A parole system was used whereby boys were returned to the School without affecting admissions.

² The former practice of transferring boys to Oakalla was discontinued.

³ Not recorded.

During the fiscal year there were 143 admissions and 24 readmissions, making a total of 167 admitted to the School. There was a 14.4-per-cent rate of recidivism. Two of the twenty-four readmissions were committed for the third time. One hundred and twelve of the total number of boys admitted were Protestant, fifty-four Roman Catholic, and one of other religion. Of the group admitted, 135 were white and enfranchised Indian status, thirty were of native Indian status, one of negro and one of East Indian extraction.

Range of Age on Admission

Age in Years	Number of Boys
10 years	2
11 „	3
12 „	5
13 „	27
14 „	29
15 „	46
16 „	40
17 „	15

The average age on admission was 14.7 years.

Legal Status of Boys Admitted

	Number of Boys
Ward	28
Parents, guardians	90
Mother, guardian	30
Father, guardian	12
Other guardian	5
Unknown	1
No legal guardian	1

One-quarter of all the wards admitted to the School during the fiscal year were recidivists, while one-eighth of non-wards admitted were recidivists.

Supervising Agencies of Boys Admitted

	Number of Boys
Social Welfare Branch	29
Provincial Probation Branch	51
Social Welfare Branch and Indian Commissioner	12
Provincial Probation Branch and Indian Commissioner	13
Vancouver Juvenile Court	21
Victoria Juvenile Court	14
Children's Aid Society	12
Catholic Children's Aid Society	4
Social Service Department, Burnaby	2
Social Welfare Department, New Westminster	2
Vancouver Juvenile Court and Indian Commissioner	1
None	5
Family and Children's Service	1

Considering the population affected, it is obvious that the Vancouver Juvenile Court is using its own local services to a greater degree than is the case in other areas of the Province.

The 167 boys admitted were committed from the following Juvenile Courts:—

Abbotsford	2	Kamloops	3
Alert Bay	2	Kelowna	4
Agassiz	1	Kimberley	1
Bella Coola	4	Kitimat	1
Boston Bar	2	Langley	2
Burnaby	14	Lumby	1
Chilliwack	5	Lytton	3
Chase	3	Masset	3
Cloverdale	6	Matsqui Municipality	2
Coquitlam District	3	Mission	1
Colwood	1	Nanaimo	2
Courtenay	2	Nelson	2
Creston	2	New Westminster	4
Dawson Creek	4	North Vancouver	3
Esquimalt	1	100 Mile House	1
Fort Nelson	1	Ocean Falls	2
Fort St. James	1	Oak Bay	1
Ganges	3	Penticton	1
Hope	3	Port Alberni	3

Port Coquitlam	1	Squamish	2
Port Moody	3	Sumas Municipality	1
Prince George	2	Terrace	2
Prince Rupert	1	Trail	2
Quesnel	1	Vancouver	28
Richmond	4	Vernon	4
Sechelt	3	Victoria	13

Boys were not in all cases residents of the area served by the Juvenile Court which committed them to the School.

Of the 167 boys committed to the School during the year, 131 were committed for offences against property, eight against persons, and twenty-eight for other offences, which included incorrigibility.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 1955-56

Salaries	\$196,012.54	
<i>Less</i> refund of overpayment	88.76	
		\$195,923.78
Office expense		4,815.32
Travelling expense		2,703.52
Maintenance of building and grounds		8,698.47
Heat, light, power, and water		19,301.48
Medical services		7,062.88
Medical supplies		1,255.29
Provisions and catering		55,472.33
Clothing and uniforms		12,188.37
Laundry and dry-goods		10,640.22
Maintenance and operation of equipment		2,681.84
Transportation		1,929.70
Equipment and machinery		879.66
Incidentals and contingencies		3,465.13
Repairs to furnishings and equipment		415.45
Training programme expense		3,385.56
		\$330,819.00
<i>Less</i> —		
Rent collected	\$1,410.00	
Unemployment insurance deductions	678.28	
Meal tickets	3,771.00	
Transportation	233.74	
Miscellaneous	121.25	
Increase in inventory	6,487.20	
		12,701.47
		\$318,117.53
Public Works expenditure		42,914.98
		\$361,032.51
<i>Less</i> maintenance receipts		422.48
		\$360,610.03

Per capita cost, \$7.17.

The School staff, in conjunction with the local National Employment Service, was able to place a number of the older boys in employment when they were ready to leave

the School. These were boys who had an aptitude and learned something about a trade in the School shops or under supervision of the School supervisors, many of whom were former tradesmen. All boys of the School, regardless of age, are given an opportunity of attending academic classes with teachers in attendance in Grades I to VIII, inclusive. The boys in Grades IX to XII continue their schooling by taking the regular Department of Education correspondence courses. The maintenance work of the School is undertaken by boys under the various supervisors and Public Works staff, and includes dining and kitchen work, repairing of their own clothing, and maintenance of the buildings and grounds.

A boy's day is divided into three phases, commencing at 7 a.m. when he arises and, excluding meal-times, he is either attending academic classes, shops, or is assigned to work projects until 3 p.m. At 3 p.m. the supervising staff changes shift and the recreational portion of the programme is in effect until bedtime. This recreational programme consists of all types of sports which vary to some degree with the seasons of the year, hobby work consisting of woodwork, metalwork, and model-building, as well as leisure time for letter-writing, reading, etc. Much of the material used for hobby work was donated by Vancouver Island and Mainland plywood-producers. The sports include inter-cottage competitions, as well as competitive sports in Nanaimo district leagues. There is a semi-annual hobby show where boys' work is put on display, judged by qualified persons of the Nanaimo community and small prizes awarded. This may be the first time that some of these boys have ever gained any recognition of their abilities, and this can be a real morale-builder. There is an annual boxing tournament in the School, and during this fiscal year individual awards were made to the boys, the trophies being donated by interested business-men of Nanaimo. A Port Alberni press group arranged for press coverage and exhibition bouts in boxing and weight-lifting at this event. The School held an annual two-day field track-meet, in which all boys of the School participated in some form of field sports. In the swimming-pool all boys are given the opportunity to learn to swim, and semi-annual swimming-meets are held. Twenty-five boys from the School are active members in the Nanaimo Sea Cadet Group.

All civic groups and service clubs of the Nanaimo district have contributed toward recreational, musical, and variety entertainment both in the School and in the community by donations of free passes to the School for the use of groups of boys to attend symphony concerts, sports events, and ice-skating. In return, the boys have worked on community projects and repaired several hundred broken toys for the Nanaimo Parent-Teacher Association, which were for distribution to needy families in the community last Christmas. A Victoria radio station donated several hundred phonograph records to the radio club and also provided a programme of musical entertainment at the School.

The School programme is operated on the honour system, and boys can earn privileges, and likewise lose them for misdemeanours. Those who misbehave are restricted from participating in off-ground activities, as well as special privileges within the School.

The School believes that as these boys must some day return to their respective communities, there is real value in keeping them closely tied in with a community during the period they are here in the School. In other words, the planned activities, both in the School and outside, go to make up the rehabilitation programme.

I wish to thank all staff members, clergymen, service clubs and other organizations, including other departments of government, both municipal and Provincial, private agencies, and individuals who have shown an interest in the boys of the School by helping the School with its programme of rehabilitation. The School is greatly indebted to all these persons, and their assistance has been appreciated by the administration of the School.

Respectfully submitted.

F. G. HASSARD,
Superintendent.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

The report of the Provincial Industrial School for Girls covering the fiscal year ended March 31st, 1956, is herewith submitted.

This year started out at the Industrial School for Girls with new senior staff, and it could be expected that "the new broom would sweep clean." The sweeping has been done slowly and, as administration looks back over the month and takes stock, it seems changes have been effected in the general atmosphere and relationships with girls and staff: also a greater stability in staff now exists. A few minor changes have been made in the building, but it is still the same old outdated, unattractive place, situated on a busy city corner, which presents many handicaps in carrying out an up-to-date programme with active teen-agers.

During the first six months of the year there was close to a complete turnover of staff, mostly among the newer and younger employees, and it has been fortunate that six with longer service have found satisfaction and sufficient challenge in the work to carry on and give leadership to new staff. Figures show that in an establishment of thirty-two, there have been twenty-six resignations and twenty-three new appointments. It is noted that staff approaching middle age are better suited to this institution than younger employees. They have the stability, kindly firmness, and objectivity necessary to handle the girls without favouritism. The School has been fortunate in attracting a number of employees, including a recreation instructress, who are well experienced in dealing with teen-agers in other settings where a high degree of discipline was necessary.

At the end of the school term in June, it was agreed that exclusive use of correspondence courses in the classroom was poor and that very few girls had made any real progress. Therefore, in September the classroom opened with a new teacher and plans to operate on the basis of a rural ungraded school. Administration applied for an Inspector, and the Department of Education placed the school under a Provincial Inspector who, along with the teacher, worked out a well-balanced programme of studies, and incorporated other staff into the classroom to teach crafts, physical education, and first aid. The classroom was redecorated, and modern blackboards, new desks, and lighting installed. With this more attractive programme, there were more girls anxious to continue with schooling than could be accommodated in one classroom. It was necessary, therefore, to confine this classroom to the elementary grades up to eight, which took care of from twelve to sixteen girls. Two other classrooms were opened on the third floor by tearing out partitions, boarding up holes, and installing proper lighting. These were used for crafts and high-school correspondence work.

Ten girls received St. John Ambulance first-aid certificates, and at the end of the fiscal year, it is believed, the majority will pass their grades in June, 1956.

A new hairdresser was employed in July and the beauty-parlour reopened, after being closed since January, 1955. It has operated to capacity since, with four or five girls always in training and two prepared to write the Government examinations at each board. The sewing-room has also operated to capacity all year. It is worth noting that girls placed in these training centres generally very quickly settle into the School and soon have a happy, buoyant appearance, as they work toward their release and a more secure future. With these three centres in full operation, it has not been difficult to plan for the balance of the girls in work placements during the day. Long winter evenings continued to present a problem in so far as keeping up an interesting programme and preventing boredom were concerned. A television set presented by the Council of Women of New Westminster has been a great asset. Community groups have come in with a programme on an average of three times a month, and, with our own improved recreation and craft programmes, there is no longer too much spare time.

But even the improved programme has failed to reduce the run-aways and the occasional window-smashing episode. The girls who run from the School are gener-

ally those who have formed this definite habit pattern in the years before they came to the School, some dating back to very early childhood. There is always the odd one the School seems unable to help in this respect, but the majority, after several months of this behaviour, suddenly take hold of themselves and make a surprising adjustment. Along with the established pattern to run, there is the large factor of group pressure, which is not well understood by those outside the institution and, in the present building, virtually impossible to control by those on the inside. This is generally also the cause of riotous behaviour. One girl, in an insidious way, incites the others to action, first by calling them "chicken" if they will not join her, then with threats of what will happen if they are not on the side of the girl. At such times, girls whose behaviour is usually good become so excited and frustrated they are no longer responsible for their actions, especially when they notice the girl who incited the trouble standing back, taking no part. The strongest factor in controlling this type of behaviour is a closer relationship between staff and girls. Much of this pressure should be overcome when, in the new School, girls will be in small cottage groups and each girl will have her separate room.

Out of a total of 132 girls in the School during the year, seventy-seven girls were responsible for 232 run-aways.

	Number of Run-aways
One girl had	12
One girl had	11
One girl had	9
One girl had	8
Two girls had	7
Three girls had	6
Three girls had	5
Ten girls had	4
Sixteen girls had	3
Eighteen girls had	2
Twenty-one girls had only	1

Religious services are held on two Sundays each month, and every Sunday small groups of girls go out to the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches in the community.

The health of the School population has been at a high level all year; even the common colds have been few and have not spread. This is no doubt, at least in part, due to the regular use of disinfectant for all dish-washing and to the conscientious work of the School nurse. Two girls required major operations. One of these was for a second-stage lung operation for an old condition, and the School regrets to report that, while convalescing at home, she developed pneumonia and died. The other was a ruptured appendix, close to the termination of a pregnancy, and the girl made a good recovery. In September, Dr. Moscovich, Medical Director of the Branch, was successful in arranging a new medical plan for the School so that now, in place of having all the work done by the doctor from the V.D. Clinic, the School has its own private doctor who holds a clinic at the School once a week. All the general aches and pains which occur daily are taken care of by the full-time School nurse. Girls are taken, when necessary, to the out-patients' department of the Vancouver General Hospital for special examinations, and the pregnant girls have attended the prenatal clinic once a week and have carried out their exercises with the School recreation leader every day. All new admissions are X-rayed for tuberculosis.

Dental work is done at the out-patients' department dental clinic one day every second week. Sixty-nine girls have received treatment. Thirty-six girls have had eye examinations.

The social service section has had a busy year looking after the emotional problems of the girls generally, in relationship to their families. Much has been done to interpret

the function of the School and its place in the total programme of the Social Welfare Branch and other social agencies in the community. Through this has developed a better understanding of the need for early social histories and for pre-release planning, with the result it is possible to have most girls examined at the Child Guidance Clinic within the first two months of their stay at the School. Both the history and early examination are valuable in planning for the girl. This year all girls have had an electroencephalogram done at Crease Clinic, which gives the School doctor an early diagnosis of any epileptic tendency.

This year social workers have been able to request follow-up reports on girls about six months after release, with a view to gathering research material. Twenty-two replies were received to twenty-five letters sent out. Of these, twenty-two girls had made a poor adjustment, nine fair, four good, and three very satisfactory.

The total population of the School has remained unchanged, the year starting and finishing with sixty-two girls attached to the School. This year there were only three transfers to other institutions—one to Oakalla and two to Provincial Mental Hospital. The actual number of girls in the School has never gone above fifty, and during the year there were seventy admissions and seventy releases. Recidivists accounted for fourteen, or 20 per cent of the admissions. The age range presents an interesting picture, as does also the range of charges laid against the girls at the time of committal. These are as follows:—

Year of Birth	Age during This Year	Percentage of Total
1937	18	4.20
1938	17	27.00
1939	16	22.80
1940	15	18.53
1941	14	15.70
1942	13	10.00
1943	12	1.40

The next table shows the percentage distribution of admissions by type of charge:—

	Per Cent
Incorrigibility	44.1
Unsatisfactory probation	25.7
Intoxication	12.85
Sexual immorality	7.1
Theft	5.5
Vagrancy	2.85
Breaking and entering	1.4

The two largest in this group—incorrigibility and unsatisfactory probation—are very general charges and do not give any idea of the actual problem, and could, if an analysis were possible, be broken down into the other five types.

Of the girls released, the approximate length of time in the School was 8.5 months.

There have been a number of interested and interesting visitors. The senior staff have spoken to several women's groups with a total approximate membership of 100. All these activities help in establishing a healthy and constructive understanding of the function of the School in the community.

In closing, may I express my sincere thanks to all staff for their co-operation and hard work during a strenuous year of reorganization; to the senior administration for support and encouragement at all times; and to all organizations and friends of the School who have given so generously of their time and talents to bring some cheer into the lives of the girls.

STATISTICAL STATEMENTS

POPULATION OF SCHOOL, MARCH 31ST, 1956

On roll, April 1st, 1955.....	62
Girls admitted during April 1st, 1955, to March 31st, 1956	70
	— 132
Officially released	69
Transferred to other institutions with subsequent official release from Girls' Industrial School.....	1
	— 70
Transferred to other institutions but not officially released from Girls' Industrial School within the year.....	3
	—
Total unreleased, March 31st, 1956.....	62

EXPENSES AND REVENUE STATEMENT OF SCHOOL, MARCH 31ST, 1956

Total inmate-days from April 1st, 1955, to March 31st, 1956.....	15,036
<i>Per capita</i> cost, one year.....	\$3,824.92
<i>Per capita</i> cost, one day.....	\$10.45
Operating expenditure by voucher—	
Salaries	\$94,543.00
Office expense	2,348.48
Travelling expense	730.50
Maintenance of buildings and grounds	2,982.58
Light, power, water, and fuel.....	7,509.30
Medical services	5,050.60
Medical supplies	1,312.76
Provisions and catering.....	18,008.46
Clothing and uniforms.....	5,047.63
Maintenance and operation of equipment.....	1,214.52
Office furniture and equipment.....	1,535.64
Equipment and machinery.....	3,174.12
Incidentals and contingencies.....	1,417.45
Good Conduct Fund.....	411.55
Vocational and recreational supplies.....	1,325.60
Transportation of girls.....	1,250.13
Laundry and dry-goods.....	2,889.70
Total expenditure for year by voucher.....	\$150,752.02
Maintenance and repairs (expended through Public Works Department)—	
Salaries	\$4,178.17
Maintenance of buildings and grounds.....	6,693.07
	— 10,871.24
Inventory, April 1st, 1955.....	3,479.17
	— 165,102.43
<i>Less—</i>	
Proceeds from meal tickets.....	\$434.50
Miscellaneous	65.00
	— \$499.50
Inventory, March 31st, 1956.....	7,467.52
	— 7,967.02
	— \$157,135.41

Reconciliation

Total expenditure as per Public Accounts.....	\$150,252.52
Add Public Works expenditure.....	10,871.24
	<hr/>
	\$161,123.76
Add inventory as at April 1st, 1955.....	3,479.17
	<hr/>
	\$164,602.93
Less inventory as at March 31st, 1956.....	7,467.52
	<hr/>
Expenditure (as above).....	\$157,135.41
	<hr/> <hr/>

Respectfully submitted.

(MISS) WINIFRED M. URQUHART,
Superintendent.

PROVINCIAL HOME, KAMLOOPS

I am pleased to submit herewith the annual report of the Provincial Home for the Aged and Infirm, Kamloops, for the fiscal year 1955-56.

BUILDINGS

Under the Public Works Department, a major job of renewing heating-radiators and connecting the distributing system was carried out in the old frame-constructed portion of the Home. This will be beneficial in the future.

The recreation-room was renovated and painted, likewise passage-ways of Wards 1 and 2, all of which helps to enhance the appearance and facilitate cleaning.

HEALTH SERVICES

As indicated in previous reports, the general physical and mental conditions of new admissions consistently declined. The majority appear on admission in need of medical and or sick-ward care, and some almost immediate hospitalization, resulting in continued pressure on the Home's sick-ward facilities, which have been expanded to include all available space in the lower two west wings.

The Irving Clinic continues to supply adequate and efficient medical service to all requiring attention, including surgery and hospitalized cases.

The demand for ophthalmology and optology services appears to be increasing. Dental services and dentures are requested more frequently.

ENTERTAINMENT

Throughout the year, divers forms of entertainment are provided, such as weekly picture shows on Wednesday nights, concerts by the Kamloops High School and the Elks Bands, and by St. Ann's Academy girls' choir, the Lions Club, and the Elks concert party. Tea parties are held during the winter months by the Kiwanis Ladies' Auxiliary. One must not forget the pool table that is in operation practically all the time, plus cards, checkers, and other small games.

As in years past, the Home has, during the Christmas season, consistently endeavoured to make the institution the show-place of town, decorating the interior and exterior with coloured lights, Christmas trees, and seasonal festoons. For its efforts in 1955, the Home was awarded the Shrine Club Cup for institutional establishments.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Various religious denominations conduct weekly services. The attendance varies according to the denomination and enthusiasm of the persons conducting same.

HOW TO HELP OLDER PEOPLE

The last half-century has witnessed a phenomenal increase in life expectancy, from a modest 45 to 50 years to 70 years or more. Therefore, the ever-increasing problem of the aged in Canada in general and in British Columbia, with its salubrious climate, in particular requires—yea, demands—an intensive study not only of geriatrics, but of sociology pertaining to the older groups.

The Superintendent believes that active participation, in any manner whatsoever, is the best therapy, and to that end he endeavours to keep the men active and interested as much as possible in such simple activities as daily walks, feeding birds, checking temperature thermometer, personal hygiene, garden and farm activity, repair jobs, daily news (radio and newspaper), sporting events, playing pool, checkers, and card games. In fact, anything of interest to them is of great importance. To keep these men ambulatory as long as possible and to afford them freedom of action with as few restrictions as possible, compatible with good order and discipline, are the primary objectives of the Provincial Home.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR APRIL 1st, 1955,
TO MARCH 31st, 1956

EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31st, 1956

Salaries	\$87,552.98
Expenses—	
Office expense	629.57
Maintenance of buildings and grounds	1,370.59
Heat, light, power, and water	4,072.87
Medical services	7,917.78
Medical supplies	3,142.45
Provisions and catering	31,998.46
Clothing and uniforms	2,038.18
Laundry and dry-goods	6,920.61
Maintenance and operation of equipment	374.79
Transportation	750.69
Equipment and machinery	133.45
Incidentals and contingencies	988.39
Burials	1,837.50
	\$149,726.31
Less—	
Board	\$1,359.00
Rent	568.75
	1,927.75
	\$147,798.56

INMATE-DAYS

Inmates in the Home, April 1st, 1955	124
Inmates admitted during the year	61
	185
Inmates discharged	34
Inmates deceased	27
	61
Total number of inmates, March 31st, 1956	124
Total number of inmate-days	44,161

SUMMARY

Provincial Home expenditure	\$147,798.56
Public Works expenditure	8,837.91
	\$156,636.47

Cost per capita: $\$156,636.47 \div 44,161 = \3.54694

PENSIONS

Pensions paid to Government Agent, Kamloops	\$56,469.99
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RECONCILIATION

Net expenditure as per Public Accounts.....		\$91,701.65
<i>Add</i> maintenance receipts—		
Pensions	\$56,469.99	
Municipalities	7,999.48	
Other collections	247.08	
	<hr/>	64,716.55
		<hr/>
<i>Add</i> Public Works expenditure.....		\$156,418.20
		8,837.91
		<hr/>
		\$165,256.11
<i>Less</i> pensioners' comforts.....	\$7,307.32	
<i>Less</i> proportion of Tranquille Farm dis- bursements over receipts.....	1,312.32	
	<hr/>	8,619.64
		<hr/>
Total expenditure (as above).....		\$156,636.47
		<hr/> <hr/>

Respectfully submitted.

J. M. SHILLAND,
Superintendent.

WELFARE INSTITUTIONS BOARD

I herewith submit the annual report of the administration of the "Welfare Institutions Licensing Act" for the year 1955. As licences are issued on the basis of the calendar year, this report covers the period from January 1st, 1955, to December 31st, 1955.

LICENCES

The total number of cases worked on in this year was 1,005. Included in this number were 555 licensed welfare institutions and 450 pending applications. Of the licensed welfare institutions, eighty-three closed within the year and 344 pending applications were closed or withdrawn. The case load at December 31st was 578, made up of 472 licensed institutions and 106 pending applications. In 1955, licensed welfare institutions gave service to 30,028 persons.

Welfare institutions licences are issued for the following types of care:—

- (1) Full-time boarding care of children under 15 years of age. This includes the small private boarding home with two children, children's institutions, and summer camps.
- (2) Day-time care of children in kindergartens, nursery schools, and foster day-care boarding homes.
- (3) Homes for older people.
- (4) Maternity homes.
- (5) Hostels for fifteen or more unemployed employables.

The home and personnel must meet the requirements as set out in the Act and regulations before a licence is issued.

BOARD MEETINGS

The Welfare Institutions Board met nine times during the year to approve licences and to deal with other business coming under the jurisdiction of the Act. Mrs. Edith Pringle, R.N., for many years a valued member of the Board, retired from Government service, and was replaced on the Board by Mr. F. P. Levirs, Chief Inspector of Schools for the Department of Education. Best wishes of the Board go to Mrs. Pringle for many years of health and happiness.

WELFARE INSTITUTIONS FOR CHILDREN

A. FULL-TIME CARE OF CHILDREN

Institutions for Child-care

There are ten licensed institutions for children. However, only two of these accept children for long-term placement; the other eight institutions offer special services.

The excellent work done by St. Christopher's School in the training of retarded boys has long been recognized. Rosary Hall, Williams Lake, and Notre Dame, Dawson Creek, furnish a much-needed boarding-home care programme for children who are attending public school in these particular areas. These children live in outlying parts of the Province where there are no schools and would have to get their education by correspondence if this service were not available. The children usually spend week-ends and holidays with their families.

The new programme for the training of emotionally disturbed girls instituted at St. Euphrasia's School, operated by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, has been in operation for a year. This school is primarily designed to offer a controlled institutional setting for the care and treatment of girls with delinquent or pre-delinquent behaviour problems. In the first year of the new programme it was decided to limit the number of girls to twenty, ranging in age from 13 to 15 years. A selective admission policy was

followed, and only girls who would fit in with the existing group already resident in the school were accepted. Also, all referrals for admission had to be made through a child-placing or other welfare agency. The school is staffed by trained and professional people who understand the needs of this type of girl. The programme has been well organized and planned, and already much has been accomplished. Requests for admission have been somewhat disappointing, but this no doubt is due to the high *per diem* rate which must be charged for this special service, and also because the programme is not yet well known to the agencies and other key people in the community.

Number of institutions licensed in 1955.....	10
Number of children cared for.....	596
Total days' care.....	96,264

Private Boarding Homes

Homes where children are boarded privately are required to be licensed under the "Welfare Institutions Licensing Act." The maximum number of children for which a licence is issued is five. However, the greater proportion of homes are licensed for no more than two children. The two Children's Aid Societies in Vancouver and the Family and Children's Service in Victoria recommend these homes for licence, and also supervise after being licensed. In the other parts of the Province the social workers of the Provincial Social Welfare Branch are responsible for this work.

The majority of private boarding homes are located in the Greater Vancouver area and in Region VI (Fraser Valley). There are very few licensed homes in the other parts of the Province, and it may be that these homes are not being reported for licence. The reasons for placement of children in private boarding homes are broken homes, illness or death, desertion, or both parents have jobs. Where the parent responsible for the children is reliable and interested, the children usually stay in the private boarding home until the parent has established a home to which the children can return.

During the year some 200 newspaper advertisements offering to board children were checked and referred to the agency concerned. The Board appreciates the co-operation received from the newspapers in referring these advertisements. Not only do the papers advise the advertiser that a licence is necessary, but also that a visit from a social worker may be expected. Most of the homes which advertise cannot be licensed because of poor physical standards or social, economic, or marital problems which may require the services of a social agency.

The Advisory Committee on Private Placements, under the chairmanship of Dr. Stewart Murray, Senior Medical Health Officer, Vancouver, meets bi-monthly to study the private boarding-home situation in Vancouver. Agencies represented on this committee are the Children's Aid Society, Catholic Children's Aid Society, Foster Day Care Association, Mental Health Services, and welfare institutions. During the past year the Committee has been concerned about the number of requests for the placement of retarded children, especially infants, in private boarding homes. The thinking of the Committee is that there is a great need for carefully selected homes for these children who, for some reason or other, cannot be looked after in their own homes, and the problem has been referred to the proper authorities for consideration and planning.

Licensed homes are encouraged to work through a child-placing agency and to accept for care only children whom the agency refers. Many more parents are coming to the Children's Aid Societies for help in finding suitable homes for their children. There were fifty-nine homes licensed during the year.

Number of children's boarding homes licensed in 1955.....	59
Number of children cared for.....	189
Total days' care.....	37,316

B. DAY CARE OF CHILDREN

Foster Homes for Day Care

Foster day-care homes are used chiefly by mothers with small children who must of necessity work to support the family. The Foster Day Care Association, a Community Chest agency, provides this type of service in Vancouver. This agency has homes in all districts in the city and refers the mother to the home nearest her home or work. It is the mother's responsibility to take the child to and from the day-care home. The cost of this service is moderate, and if the mother cannot pay the full charge, the agency is ready to help. Homes used for this type of care are moderate in size and furnishings, and the foster-parents usually have one or two children of their own. Day-care homes are limited to the care of five children and are under the constant supervision of the agency. A kindergarten service is provided where the children are of suitable age and sufficient in number. In other areas of the Province where there is no special agency set up to provide day care, the homes licensed for this purpose are under the supervision of a child welfare agency or the Provincial Social Welfare Branch.

There is an increase in the number of requests for day care of children by mothers who prefer a job outside the home and also those who are needed in industry and business. The present high cost of living also has forced many mothers back to work. Industry, business, and the professions at the present time are in need of the skills and experience of many married women and are encouraging them to return to their former jobs. If it is to become a permanent part of Canadian culture that married women with young children are needed as part of the labour force, then a good day-care programme must be worked out for the care of these children.

Number of foster day-care homes licensed in 1955.....	32
Number of children cared for.....	247
Total days' care.....	20,087

Kindergartens, Play-schools, etc.

The training of the pre-school child still commands great interest in British Columbia, and many projects of this kind have been set up in all parts of the Province. These pre-schools have been established by groups of parents, community associations, churches, and private persons.

In order to provide training for persons who want to work with pre-school children, a training programme of ten courses, covering the various aspects of pre-school education, has been set up. These courses are given by the Adult Education Department, Vancouver School Board, and also by the Victoria College Evening Division in Victoria. For persons who are unable to attend these courses, the Extension Department of the University of British Columbia offers a course in pre-school education by correspondence. Persons registering for the correspondence course are also required to take a three weeks' demonstration and methods course in pre-school education, which is given by the Extension Department of the University of British Columbia each summer, usually the first three weeks of July. This course has proven very successful, and as registration is limited to twenty-five persons, there are always more applications than can be accepted.

During the year, under the joint sponsorship of the three pre-school groups, a two-day institute was arranged, also workshops and lectures. Representatives from all parts of the Province attended. The Vancouver pre-school groups also had the privilege of meeting with Dr. B. Lowenfeld, Superintendent of the California State School for the Blind, who explained that pre-school blind children have exactly the same need of ever-widening experiences as sighted children, and in the pre-school years especially a full recognition of this fact can greatly assist the blind child to make a happy adjustment in a sighted world. Many of the pre-school projects include a blind child in the group.

Miss Madeleine Brault, a Vancouver pre-school supervisor, received one of the first awards of the newly established Queen Elizabeth Scholarship at the Nursery Training School, Tufts College, Boston, Mass. This scholarship was set up to commemorate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II and is given to Canadians only. Miss Brault plans to return to Vancouver following her year in Boston.

Standards continue to improve, for there are more and better trained supervisors who see to it that the accommodation and equipment are suitable for the activities and programmes.

Number of pre-school centres licensed in 1955.....	222
Number of children registered.....	8,640
Total days' care.....	745,563

Schools for Retarded Children

During the past few years great interest has been taken in the training of mentally retarded children, particularly those children who are not educable in special classes of the public schools. Schools for these children have been started in many centres by interested groups, the parents of the children taking the lead. As the work grew, the groups realized that better results could be obtained by united effort and a Provincial association called the "Association for Retarded Children of British Columbia" was formed. Local groups, now called "chapters," have membership in the Provincial organization. At the end of 1955 there were nine chapters, with a total membership of 1,750.

For persons interested in teaching mentally retarded children, a six weeks' course of training may be taken at The Woodlands School, the Provincial Government school for the mentally retarded. It is desirable that a person have a teaching certificate before taking this course. Other courses for teachers are planned for the future.

It is not possible at the present time to give the exact number of retarded children in this Province, but already seven schools have been licensed, with a total capacity of 125 pupils, and six licences are pending.

MATERNITY HOMES

The number of licensed homes for the care of the unmarried mother still remains at three. All are located in the Vancouver area. The total accommodation of these homes is for fifty-eight mothers and fifty-seven infants, which seems adequate to meet the need.

All homes work very closely with the Children's Aid Societies and other welfare agencies in making plans for the mother's return to the community and the baby's future. In cases where the mother wishes it, adoption is planned for the baby, but if she wants to keep her baby, she is helped to find a suitable foster home or a home where she may stay with the baby.

While in residence, arrangements are made for the girls to continue their schooling if they wish to do so. Instruction also is given in arts and crafts. These courses are arranged by the women's auxiliaries to the homes.

A friendly and kind atmosphere prevails in all homes, and while there are rules which must be followed, these are neither rigid nor exacting. In two of these homes registered nurses are in charge, while in the other one a social worker is matron. Other staff members are well trained and understanding.

These three homes are giving a valuable and much-needed service. More mothers were admitted to the homes during the year, but there was a decrease in the number of babies.

Number of homes licensed in 1955.....	3
Number of mothers cared for.....	271
Number of infants cared for.....	201
Total days' care (mothers and infants).....	26,671

AGED-CARE

Since the turn of this century the average life expectancy at birth has been extended about twenty years, from age 49 to about age 68. Infant and childhood mortality has been greatly reduced and fewer people are dying in early maturity, and, as a result, more men and women live to reach their sixties or seventies, even their eighties or nineties. Statistics tell us that the man or woman who has reached 50 has an even chance of living another twenty-five years or more; at 65, another thirteen years; at 75, another eight years. Moreover, our life-span is still continuing to increase, and some authorities claim that to-day's child may live to be 100.

Population statistics are not the only ageing challenge. Scientific discoveries and inventions in the last fifty years have changed the way of living and brought many changes to which society has not yet become accustomed. Industrialization has greatly reduced the number of private and independent business-men and farmers and has turned individuals primarily into a nation of wage-earners. This in turn has led to the concentration of people in cities. This machine age has not only brought about a rise in the standard of living, but has given more leisure time. Working-hours have been greatly reduced, and there is every indication that a greater reduction will take place. Labour-saving devices, factory-made clothing, and prepared foods have shortened the many and long work-hours of the housewife. Another very fundamental change has taken place in the family itself. To a great extent the traditional three-generation family has been replaced by the self-sufficient two-generation unit. The small house or apartment has become the typical family unit, with little or no room for the "old folks." The old-fashioned "family homestead," with its round of activities in which grandma and grandpa could play their part, has largely faded from the picture. All of these factors have added greatly to the problem of providing adequate care and accommodation for the increased ageing population.

There is also need for the community to change its attitude toward ageing and aged persons. If this group in the population is to have sympathetic understanding, there needs to be a more optimistic attitude toward the later years of life and what can be accomplished by persons in those years. At present some people have a sentimental and overprotective attitude for older people, while others show disregard and neglect for their problems and needs. What is needed is an intelligent and open-minded approach to the problems which are created by age. Social workers should not only be interested in helping the people who are already old, but also in preparing everyone to enjoy and accept a useful and happy old age.

The needs of old people are no different from the rest of the population, but due to failing physical and mental health, many older people are unable to look after their needs. One of the most pressing needs is housing. Many old people are able to manage for themselves in a housekeeping unit, but due to reduced income it is impossible for them to get decent housing for a rental they can afford to pay. Other older people, because of age and infirmity, require boarding-home care, while still others need the care of a nursing home or private hospital.

The Provincial Government has provided for financial assistance to non-profit organizations planning housing for old people through the "Housing for Elderly Citizens Act," which was passed in 1955. Many low-rental housing projects for older citizens have been built throughout this Province by churches, service clubs, and other groups, but many, many more such projects are needed. To-day, lucky is the old couple

or elderly single person who is housekeeping in one of these cottages or apartments where all the comforts of modern living are provided for a rent which can be met from their Old-age Assistance cheque. Rents in these projects range from \$20 per month for single accommodation to \$25 for couples. A member of one of these organizations which has built many of these projects, when recently discussing this housing development, stated, "Yes, we are pleased with the housing we have provided for older people, but the important factor is that we have shown that it can be done."

Many new boarding homes, which are licensed under the "Welfare Institutions Licensing Act," were opened during the year, others are in the process of building, and some already constructed are planning additions. Glacier View Home, located at Comox, was one of the new homes this year. It has private-room accommodation for twenty guests, as well as four double rooms reserved for couples. Many organizations and individuals, along with industrial and business firms in the area, made the building and furnishing of this home possible. To Queen Elizabeth Hall, the Canadian National Institute home for the blind, an addition of forty beds was added. The Corporation of the District of Mission is presently building a home for its elderly citizens. When completed the home will have twenty private rooms and four double rooms for couples. This home is ideally situated, with a magnificent view of the Fraser River and Mount Baker. Plans are well under way for a new Soroptimist House and a home for senior citizens at Oliver. Additions are planned for Dania Home and St. Jude's Anglican Home, Vancouver, and Menno Home, Clearbrook. Due to the construction of a second bridge to the North Shore, the board of directors of the Swedish rest home have decided that the home must be vacated. With the increased traffic and noise, the location is no longer suitable. This fine home will not be lost, for already plans are in the making for the construction of another home.

Homes which have recently been built and those under construction have private-room accommodation with two or three larger rooms which are for married couples. Most older people are quite happy to go to a boarding home when they know that they will have a room of their own. All homes have some form of recreation and provide equipment such as television, radio, reading material, and games. Visit any of the homes during the day and one will no doubt see a serious game of cribbage or checkers and most likely a very lively game of bingo. Community groups and organizations give concerts and other entertainment which are most appreciated by the older people. Arrangements are also made to hold church services regularly for those persons who are unable to attend church.

It is hoped that these homes will remain small in population so that they may be real homes where each guest is an individual, a personality, and is accepted and understood by the other guests and by the staff alike. Homes which are too large become institutions where personal understanding and family atmosphere is very often replaced by rigid rules and regulations.

People are fortunate in British Columbia to have so many fine municipal, national, and church homes which have set and maintained high standards of care and accommodation. At the present time nine municipalities have homes for their senior citizens, four homes are operated by national groups, six homes are run by non-profit organizations, and twelve homes are under the auspices of church or religious groups. These homes are a means of improving standards in the privately operated homes.

What to do with the senile or childish older person is still a problem. Many of these persons remain in a boarding home because there is no other accommodation for them. Very often this is most disturbing to the other older people and adds to the work and responsibility of the person in charge of the home.

The regulations to the "Welfare Institutions Licensing Act" are presently being reviewed and will be rewritten in the coming year. There are still many requests from

places in Canada and the United States for information about licensed homes and also for copies of the "Welfare Institutions Licensing Act" and regulations.

Number of homes licensed during 1955	167
Number of persons cared for	3,612
Total days' care	724,980

UNEMPLOYED ADULTS

There were no new homes licensed for this type of care during the year. The four homes already licensed are for girls and women. Two of the homes—namely, the Residential Club (Roman Catholic) and Bethel Home (Mennonite)—are located in Vancouver. Rainbow House is in Victoria, and the Salvation Army Lodge for Young Women is in Prince Rupert.

These homes are for girls who are working and living away from their families. Here the girls have all the comforts of home along with companions of their own age. Board rates are moderate, and should a girl become unemployed and unable to pay, she is not asked to leave. There are no rigid rules or regulations, but there is supervision and guidance from experienced matrons when required. Each home has its own programme for entertainment and other activities of interest. This type of group living for the teen-age and adolescent younger woman has proven most successful, and no doubt would prove just as successful for boys of the same age. Admission is by direct application to the home, and there is usually a waiting-list for admission. Twenty-one more girls lived in the homes during 1955 than in the previous year.

There has been one most interesting development this year. An application for a licence has been received from the Alcoholism Foundation of British Columbia to operate a rehabilitation residence for alcoholics. The home will be limited to men. The purpose of the home is to give the alcoholic an opportunity to enjoy a clean, healthful, homelike place to live while taking treatments at the out-patient clinic. The home will be ready for occupancy early in 1956, and information regarding admission can be obtained from the executive director of the Alcoholism Foundation.

Number of homes licensed during 1955	4
Number of persons cared for	411
Total days' care	17,012

SUMMER CAMPS

Clear, through the gathering dusk, a bugle sounds,
In quick response the campers turn from play;
While through the silent hills the call resounds,
They stand erect to honour close of day.

From western skies the colours slowly die,
The stars above the pines their watches keep.
Another joyous day goes swiftly by,
Another night bestows her gift of sleep.

The sun has gone down and the bugle has sounded taps for the last time to close the 1955 camping season. The campers have returned home to work and school, but the memories, experiences, and new friendships will remain for ever. There were fifty-eight camps licensed, and a total of 15,861 campers attended.

The B.C. Camping Association had done much work and planning to make this a successful season. A course was arranged for camp administrators, which was well attended, and an institute for counsellors was held at Camp Elphinstone. This was the first time that the institute had been given in a camp setting, and it was so successful that plans are under way for a repeat for next year. Camp Week, held the first week in May,

with stores, radio, and newspapers co-operating, has done much to promote camping throughout the Province.

The first Conservation Workshop, a joint project of the Canadian Forestry Association, University of British Columbia and the B.C. Camping Association, was held at Loon Lake, the University forest camp near Haney. Most of the camps were represented at this institute. In charge were outstanding Canadian authorities on forest conservation, who made this week-end institute an outstanding success. Plans are already on the way for a similar institute for next year.

A camping directory was published again this year, the Vancouver Community Chest and Council and the B.C. Camping Association sharing the cost. The directory gives concise information on summer camps in all areas of the Province. Unfortunately many camps did not send the required information in time and consequently were not included in the directory. The B.C. Camping Association also sends out a monthly letter to its members and others interested. These letters are informative and interesting and a means of keeping contact with out-of-town members.

The Provincial health department carried out extensive inspections of all summer camps, and the reports received on these inspections were encouraging, all camps showing improvements. P.H. 26 health form was again used this year, and the camps report that this form is most helpful.

All camps report that trained staff, especially trained counsellors, are difficult to get, and many camps which formerly depended on voluntary help are now finding it necessary to pay many of their staff members.

More than 300 children in the Vancouver area enjoyed a camp holiday through the camp referral programme.

Interest and enthusiasm for camping continues, and more persons attended camps this year than in any previous year.

Number of summer camps licensed in 1955	58
Number of persons cared for	15,861
Total days' care	149,616

CONCLUSION

Sincere thanks and appreciation are extended to all who helped with the administration of this Act.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Table I.—Showing a Comparative Summary of Information regarding Premises Licensed under the "Welfare Institutions Licensing Act"

	1952	1953	1954	1955
<i>Children—Total Care (Excluding Summer Camps)</i>				
Number licensed—				
Institutions.....	10	10	10	10
Boarding homes.....	37	48	50	58
Capacity—				
Institutions.....	562	549	549	500
Boarding homes.....	105	126	146	150
Number of children under care—				
Institutions.....	613	643	657	596
Boarding homes.....	149	166	174	189
Number of days' care—				
Institutions.....	122,139	140,269	129,976	92,264
Boarding homes.....	27,581	30,553	35,053	37,316
<i>Women—Maternity</i>				
Number licensed.....	3	3	3	3
Capacity.....	116	116	115	115
Number of persons under care—				
Mothers.....	214	229	219	271
Babies.....	221	218	225	201
Number of days' care.....	26,941	25,852	26,240	26,671
<i>Adults—Infirm and Unemployable</i>				
Number licensed.....	110	133	150	167
Capacity.....	1,740	1,955	2,222	2,426
Number of persons under care.....	2,630	2,874	3,299	3,612
Number of days' care.....	533,660	601,941	664,429	724,980
<i>Adults—Employable</i>				
Number licensed.....	4	4	4	4
Capacity.....	58	58	58	69
Number of persons under care.....	455	406	390	411
Number of days' care.....	15,464	15,642	16,825	17,012
<i>Children—Day Care</i>				
Number licensed—				
Kindergartens.....	146	136	194	222
Foster day care.....	28	29	28	32
Capacity—				
Kindergartens.....	3,993	4,839	5,120	5,295
Foster day care.....	126	183	137	154
Number of children enrolled—				
Kindergartens.....	7,401	8,046	8,924	8,640
Foster day care.....	293	324	254	247
Number of attendance days—				
Kindergartens.....	554,173	663,378	712,808	745,563
Foster day care.....	22,502	26,428	18,201	20,087
<i>Summer Camps</i>				
Number licensed.....	33	42	50	58
Capacity.....	2,463	2,642	3,369	3,765
Number of persons attending.....	9,572	12,626	13,578	15,861
Number of attendance days.....	203,234	118,713	122,693	149,616

Table II.—Case Load Showing the Total Number of Licensed Institutions and Pending Applications, 1955

	Licensed Jan. 1, 1955	Licensed in 1955	Licensed Institutions Closed in 1955	Total Cases Licensed at Dec. 31, 1955
<i>Licensed</i>				
Children—total care—				
1. Boarding homes	45	14	8	51
2. Institutions	10	—	—	10
3. Camps	50	8	2	56
Children—day care—				
1. Kindergarten	179	43	33	189
2. Foster day care	26	6	4	28
Aged—				
1. Boarding homes	111	25	35	101
2. Institutions	30	1	1	30
Adults—employable—Institutions	4	—	—	4
Homes—maternity	3	—	—	3
Totals	458	97	83	472
Licensed, December 31st, 1954				458
Number licensed in 1955				97
				555
Closed in 1955				83
				472
	Pending Jan. 1, 1955	New Cases in 1955	Closed in 1955	Total Pending Cases at Dec. 31, 1955
<i>Pending Licences</i>				
Children—total care—				
1. Boarding homes	19	92	96	15
2. Institutions	—	1	—	1
3. Camps	10	14	14	10
Children—day care—				
1. Kindergarten	52	110	121	41
2. Foster day care	13	14	21	6
Aged—				
1. Boarding homes	29	90	88	31
2. Institutions	2	4	4	2
Adults—employable	—	—	—	—
Homes—maternity	—	—	—	—
Totals	125	325	344	106
Carried from December 31st, 1954				125
New cases during 1955				325
Closed during 1955				344
				106
<i>Total Case Load</i>				
Licensed				472
Pending				106
				578

MEMBERS OF BOARD

The following are the members of the Welfare Institutions Board for 1955:—

Chairman: Mr. J. A. Sadler, Director of Welfare.

Members: Dr. G. Elliot, Assistant Provincial Health Officer, Department of Health; Mr. F. P. Levirs, Chief Inspector of Schools, Department of Education; Miss Ruby McKay, Superintendent, Child Welfare Division; and Mr. A. A. Shipp, Assistant Administrator, Region II, Social Welfare Branch.

Chief Inspector: Mrs. Edna L. Page.

Respectfully submitted.

(MRS.) EDNA L. PAGE,
Chief Inspector of Welfare Institutions.

PART IV.—MEDICAL SOCIAL WORK SERVICES**SOCIAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT, DIVISION OF
TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL**

I beg to submit the following report on the activities of the Social Service Department, Division of Tuberculosis Control, for the fiscal year 1955-56.

In British Columbia there has been steady progress in the fight against tuberculosis.* Although at the end of 1955 there were almost 21,000 known cases in the Province, only 3,022 were classified as having active pulmonary disease, and this number may be further reduced when the active case load has been reclassified as the result of up-to-date medical examination. During the year there were 1,204 newly reported cases of pulmonary tuberculosis for the Province, but of this number only 588 were diagnosed as having active infection. For over half of these patients, their tuberculosis was minimal. The incidence of tuberculosis among older people was on the increase, with 36 per cent of the newly diagnosed patients in 1955 being over 50 years of age. Contrary to expectations, only about 15 per cent of these older patients had far advanced disease, while almost 60 per cent had minimal infection. Although tuberculosis as a children's disease has been steadily decreasing in British Columbia, in 1955 there were eighty-four cases of active pulmonary tuberculosis reported in children under 15 years, with the attack rate higher among the Indian children, with fifty-three cases reported, compared to thirty-one cases in this age-group in the rest of the population. Deaths among patients in the tuberculosis hospitals took an upward swing from sixty-seven in 1954 to ninety-five in 1955. However, over one-third of these deaths were due to causes other than tuberculosis. Most of the deaths occurred in the older age-group, with only two deaths reported of patients under 20 years of age.

Reflecting the changing picture in tuberculosis in British Columbia was the decline in the number of patient-days' treatment given in the tuberculosis institutions during the year, and this enabled the Division of Tuberculosis Control to reduce its bed capacity from 935 to 733 by the end of 1955. One of the buildings at Tranquille Sanatorium was closed, as well as the Tuberculosis Villa at St. Joseph's Hospital in Victoria. In this same period, North Lawn, a new hospital of 265 beds, was opened at the Provincial Mental Hospital for the care of mentally ill patients with tuberculosis. This has greatly improved the treatment facilities for these patients and has made their segregation more effective. North Lawn has also provided a proper treatment centre to which patients who become mentally ill in the tuberculosis hospitals can be transferred and given the kind of supervision that is not possible on the tuberculosis wards.

With the opening of North Lawn there was a slight increase over the previous year in the number of new admissions to the hospitals of the Division, and here again the higher proportion of patients in the older age-groups was evident, with almost one-quarter of the new admissions for the year being people over 60 years of age. Discharges showed an increase, with 78 per cent of the total patients discharged in 1955 having been in hospital less than one year. This accelerated treatment does not appear to have adversely affected the recovery rate, for in the year 82 per cent of the patients leaving hospital had their disease satisfactorily controlled. This is a steady improvement over the previous years. Another improvement is the decreasing number of patients leaving hospital without medical approval. In the current year these discharges accounted for about 16 per cent of the total discharges, as against 18 per cent in 1954. However, in 1955, for a large number of the patients discharged against medical advice, arrangements were made for

* Statistical information on tuberculosis in British Columbia is from the Annual Report of the Division of Tuberculosis Control for 1955, which covers the period from January 1st to December 31st, 1955.

them to continue their drug therapy as out-patients in the community. This left only a small number (about 7 per cent of the total discharges) of unco-operative patients who were discharged for disciplinary reasons or who discontinued their treatment and left hospital before they were considered medically fit to do so. This group constitutes a hard core of infection, and they present a serious obstacle to a successful community programme for controlling tuberculosis. These patients are people with many problems. For the most part, they are not capable of taking responsibility for protecting others against their disease, and neither are they able on a voluntary basis to come into hospital and remain until adequate treatment has brought their disease under control. In 1955 nine such patients were committed to hospital for treatment under the authority of the Deputy Minister of Health as provided in the "Health Act." Such action is a last resort when the person is a public health menace and all efforts to persuade him to take prescribed treatment on a voluntary basis have failed. Committed patients who leave hospital before their medical discharge has been approved by the Deputy Minister of Health are returned to the hospital under police escort. On the whole, the nine patients committed in 1955 settled down and could be cared for on the open wards, but for some this created an extra strain and they had to be segregated. In the hospitals of the Division there is very limited accommodation for providing this kind of care, and the recalcitrant patient continues to be a serious problem in ward management.

In addition to patients committed under the "Health Act," the Division received, for treatment, prisoners under sentence from the Provincial and Federal gaols. Although these patients can be returned to the prison from which they were admitted if they are not co-operative, they are a special problem on the tuberculosis wards, and will continue to be so until hospital facilities are provided within the prisons themselves. There is a high incidence of tuberculosis among the prison population, as indicated by the results of survey X-rays taken on admission of prisoners to Oakalla. Here the number of cases of active tuberculosis (new and previously known) discovered in this way in 1955 was one in 149 X-ray films, as compared to one in 1,604 X-ray examinations carried out on the general public at the Pacific National Exhibition.

For the Social Service Department of the Division of Tuberculosis Control, the past year was one of internal reorganization. Two members of the staff resigned and replacements were not available, and toward the end of the year the establishment of the Department was reduced by one social worker. In addition, for nine months during this period the Provincial supervisor of the Department was engaged on a part-time basis in two other departments. She was a member of the survey team appointed by the Civil Service Commission to study the organization and operation of the institutions within the Provincial Department of Health, and she substituted for the medical social-work consultant of the Branch during a period of extended sick-leave. In this latter capacity she served as the social worker on the Medical Advisory Committee of the Provincial Disabled Persons' Allowance Board, and in February, 1956, attended the first conference of Medical Advisory Committees called by the Federal Disabled Persons' Allowance Board.

As part of its reorganization process, the staff of the Social Service Department began a series of studies in preparation for the drafting of a statement of the structure and function of the Department within the Division of Tuberculosis Control, and this project was still in progress at the end of the year. Heretofore, the social worker's case load had included all the patients on her wards. With the increasing number of admissions and discharges in the tuberculosis hospitals, this was an impossible task, and the professional services of the Department had become diffused. As a beginning step in the defining of structure and function, an analysis was made of day-to-day activities of the workers in the Social Service Department, and it was found that a disproportionate amount of the workers' time was being spent in incidental services related to ward management and hospital administration rather than in direct service to patients. Each type of incidental service was carefully scrutinized to determine whether or not it was

appropriate to be given by the Social Service staff, and, as a result, some of these services were transferred to other departments. For example, instead of the ward social worker being required to investigate the validity of a patient's request for a day's leave from hospital, this request, which is medically approved by the ward doctor, now goes direct from the doctor to the superintendent of the hospital for a decision. Other services which were time-consuming for the social workers and unproductive in terms of service to the patients have been established as clerical routines.

With the social workers relieved of some of the incidental services, this permitted a better focusing of their skills in service to patients having difficulty accepting the treatment routine because of environmental or emotional problems related to their illness and hospitalization. In spite of the great gains that have been made in the treatment and control of tuberculosis, it is still a disease that seriously disrupts the whole life plan of the person who falls a victim to it. It is the rare person for whom a diagnosis of tuberculosis is not an economic disaster. If it is the bread-winner who is the patient, his illness has created many problems for his family, and it is hard for him to accept his new dependent status. Whether it be the bread-winner or the home-maker, this reversal of roles is one of the most painful aspects of the total treatment of tuberculosis, and it often leaves scars that are more difficult to heal than the tuberculosis lesion. Although the majority of patients are discharged from hospital in less than a year, this is still a long time to be out of circulation. Because for so much of the time the patient is in hospital he neither feels or looks sick, this creates tensions and frustrations that are hard to bear. For the person who needs to escape from responsibility, tuberculosis is no longer a refuge because it is curable. Such patients need help in recognizing that when their disease is under control they must relinquish the dependent existence that is life in hospital and resume their responsibilities in the outside world.

To deal with these personal problems and to make available to the patient the resources in the community that can relieve the practical problems created by tuberculosis are the main purposes of the Social Service Department in this medical setting, and during the year the goal of the Department has been to work toward a reorganization that will enable the workers to make their contribution more effective in the total treatment programme of the Division. Service to patients by the Social Service Department is now on a selective basis, and requests come to the ward social worker from various sources within the hospital, such as doctors, nurses, other professional staff, and from the patients themselves. Referrals also come from outside the hospital, from the social workers in the out-patient clinics and other hospitals of the Division, from community agencies, and from relatives and friends of the patients. Efforts are being made to establish more effective channels of communication, and referral policies are being defined. This requires interpretation of the appropriate functions of the social workers in the Division to the other professional staff. With the main focus of the Division on medical rather than the social aspects of tuberculosis, such interpretation is a continuing process.

In order to give a more accurate picture of the activities of the Social Service Department, the statistical procedure was revised, and casework service was specifically defined and reported separately from incidental services. At the end of the year, the statistical method was still under revision, with the next step the development of a more qualitative method of recording casework service. Because of this change in statistics, the case-load figures for the current year are not comparable with other years. However, the volume of work performed by the Social Service staff compared favourably with the previous years, with the workers averaging monthly seventy-nine interviews with patients, five interviews with relatives and friends, fifty-one conferences with medical and other hospital staff, seventeen conferences with community agencies, as well as other activities involved in carrying on the work of the Department.

In addition to the regular staff meetings, staff-development projects included attendance by various members of the staff at the following meetings: Institute for student

supervisors, given by the University of British Columbia School of Social Work, with Miss Leontine Young, of the Ohio State University School of Social Work, as guest lecturer; institute for district and division supervisors of the Social Welfare Branch; annual staff meeting of Region II; annual institute of the Provincial Department of Public Health. The TB. Social Service Department was also represented on various committees of the Branch and of health and welfare agencies in the community.

During the current year the Social Service Department of the Division continued to participate in educational programmes for professional staff in the fields of health and welfare, including the Division of Tuberculosis Control's training programme for affiliate undergraduate nursing students, panel presentation on the organization and operation of the Division of Tuberculosis Control given to medical students from the University of British Columbia, panel discussion for the instructors' group of the British Columbia Registered Nurses' Association, seminar on social work in a medical setting for each in-service training class conducted by the Social Welfare Branch. Again this year the School of Social Work at the University of British Columbia placed a first-year student in the Social Service Department of the Division for field work.

In the past year the staff of this Department has developed a feeling of unity and purpose, and plans are well formulated for the continuation of its study of the structure and function of the Department within this Division of the Department of Health.

Respectfully submitted.

(MISS) ENID S. WYNESS,
Provincial Supervisor, TB. Social Service.

**SOCIAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT, DIVISION OF
VENEREAL DISEASE CONTROL**

I wish to submit the following report on the activities of the Social Service Section of the Division of Venereal Disease Control for the fiscal year 1955-56.

The statistics on the venereal-disease notification refer to the calendar year 1955, while the Social Service statistics refer to the fiscal year 1955-56.

The new notifications of venereal infection in British Columbia in this period continued to decline. This favourable trend reflects a continuation of the medical and epidemiologic gains made in the previous years and described in previous Annual Reports. The over-all rate has now dropped from 228.4 per 100,000 population in 1954 to 210.7 per 100,000 population in 1955.

An analysis of the reported cases of gonorrhœa, however, shows an increase in cases in the period from July to December, 1955. This appears to reflect a trend which has been nation-wide, although there has been some variation as to time, place, and extent of the increase. The implications of the increase for venereal-disease control are to reaffirm the need for continued use of present control measures.

The contribution of the Social Service Department to the over-all control of venereal disease included direct counselling service on a casework basis to patients, consultations with clinic physicians, lectures to student-nurses, and interpretation to outside agencies on many aspects of venereal disease. The primary and fundamental activity of this section was in direct casework service to patients. This was directed to helping patients with environmental and personal difficulties related to their infections.

There were 877 patient interviews conducted by the Vancouver clinic social worker during eleven months of the fiscal year 1955-56. There was no social-work service for one month. The results of these interviews are, of course, hard to determine, but it should be remembered that preventive social-work services of this nature may not be impressive, but are more economical of the community's resources and return some dividends in aiding patients to achieve a better level of adjustment.

The social-work interviews were with patients who were referred on a routine basis. An analysis of these interviews reveals that the majority were with patients in the 15-29-year age-group. This age-group acquired 56 per cent of the venereal-disease infections reported in 1955. Many of these patients were not repeater patients, but, rather, young people who had acquired an infection through a misadventure, experimentation, or more complicated etiology.

With the patients in this age-group of 15 to 29 years, there was generally a distinction between their emotional reaction to the infection and their emotional reaction to their behaviour which had given rise to the infection. In general, they expressed little concern over their behaviour, and the implication of this seemed to be that many young people to-day consider sexual experimentation, on a selective basis, as a normal part of maturation. Whether this reflects a change in sexual mores is not clear, but it is the opinion of the clinic social worker that the adolescent and young adult of to-day are faced with a contradictory situation. On the one hand, they are taught to recognize the normalcy of sexual drives, which they must learn to control, while, on the other hand, they are exposed to many forms of stimulation, a permissive attitude, and a contradictory sexual code, which place heavy demands on their personal controls. The implications of this for society as a whole, while needing further evaluation and study, are vital to the health of future generations.

The patients interviewed by the social worker were evaluated according to criteria previously outlined in the Annual Report of 1952-53. From this evaluation it was possible to divide them into three major social groups. This division was made on the basis of social movement, source of infection, and general adjustment to life. This portrayal, in Fig. 1, presents pictorially the venereal-disease problem in the Greater

circle or stable part of society. They are a rigid, self-centred, and self-contained group, whose inter-personal relationships appear casual and disorganized. Their capacity to use casework help is limited.

- (2) *Group II, the Middle Circle.*—Thirty-three per cent of social-work interviews were with this group. This group is comprised of individuals whose lives are confused and they lack direction and stability. They are responsible individuals in terms of their work but have few meaningful personal relationships and are acceptable companions, at times, to the individuals in both the inner and outer circle. They vacillate in their social relationships. Many are younger people and their instabilities are typical of the confusion and conflict of adolescence and young adulthood. They may eventually move in either direction permanently or remain fixed in the vacillating group. They generally have the potentiality to go either way and exist on the penumbra of either group. This is a flexible, constantly changing group, and social-work services are effective to some extent.
- (3) *Group III, the Outer Circle.*—Forty-four per cent of social-work interviews were with this group. This group is composed of the relatively healthy or potentially healthy members of society who have no direct contact with the "reservoir of infection" in Group I, but have occasional contacts with "the agents of transmission" in Group II. If these contacts result in infections for them, they usually have the capacity to learn from their experience and do not repeat the experience. This is a large group, flexible and heterogeneous, but basically stable.

The diagram illustrates the venereal-disease problem in the Vancouver area according to a classification of patients interviewed by the social worker at the Vancouver clinic. Implicit in this illustration is the fact that the "agents of transmission" are actually responsible for 77 per cent of the infections present among the patients seen by the social worker in 1955. These "agents" also represent a group of individuals whose potentiality for change is greater than the members of the "reservoir of infection." Therefore, it would seem that social-work therapeutic efforts should be focused on the "agents of transmission," who actually represent a greater public health threat than the members of the "reservoir of infection."

As a contrast to the problems of the younger age-groups, patients over 40 years of age present a different and equally challenging task for social work in the venereal-disease clinic. There has been a small increase in the syphilis infection discovered in this over-forty age-group. Most of these infections were late syphilis, either latent or symptomatic, and were probably acquired many years prior to diagnosis. The emotional reaction to the diagnosis was often a specific one to some extent, although varying in degree according to individual strengths and weaknesses. The qualities of the reactions were compounded of guilt, shame, remorse, fear, depression, etc. Many reacted with extreme panic and even denied the diagnosis. In most cases, without skilled social-work help, these patients would have left the Vancouver clinic with many unresolved and crippling conflicts.

One aspect of casework services with this over-forty age-group involved a rehabilitation focus in those cases where late syphilis with a central nervous-system involvement had complicated the adjustment for the individuals. A diagnosis of this kind does not necessarily mean that the patient's ability to function is completely impaired, nor does it mean that the patient cannot respond to casework and medical therapy.

An example of this was the case of a 56-year-old woman whose initial appearance at the Vancouver clinic followed an industrial accident where medical investigation had revealed the presence of syphilis. The social history showed she was a responsible person whose adjustment to life had been complicated by her increasing physical and

mental deterioration for a period of at least two years prior to her accident. During the four weeks' period of her medical treatment she began to show remarkable and even dramatic improvement both physically and mentally. She was seen frequently by the social worker for supportive casework services. The dramatic response to medical therapy was encouraging and was symptomatic of the patient's actual strength and demonstrated the positive aspect of a team approach. While it was doubtful that she would ever turn to gainful employment, at least she could maintain herself with ancillary support through a public welfare agency. Due to social complications, this support was obtained only after the patient had appealed to the Provincial Board of Review for clarification of her situation.

Another situation where a team approach proved its value concerned a 54-year-old man who had been in receipt of Social Allowance for four years. He had been treated for syphilis at the Vancouver clinic and referred for consideration of Social Allowance by a private physician, as he was thought to be medically unemployable. After four years of dependency on public funds, he returned to the clinic for medical reassessment, where he expressed considerable dissatisfaction with his situation. Apparently he had requested rehabilitation training through the public welfare department and had been refused because of his age. Because of the negative implications of the medical diagnosis, it was felt that careful study should be given to his case to re-examine his potentialities for retraining. This study took some time and consisted of medical reassessment, psychometric testing through the Youth Counselling Service, consultations with the Rehabilitation Co-ordinator (Mr. Bradbury), discussions with the patient's family physician, the Vancouver Vocational School, and the agency administering the social assistance. As the result of these investigations, retraining was recommended, and after three months of training at the Vancouver Vocational School he commenced active employment.

These cases point out the need for careful study of patients as individuals with particular and idiosyncratic situations. In the one case there was some evidence of prejudice on the part of agency personnel because of the nature of the disabling condition. In the case of the woman, one agency assumed that she was an alcoholic because of her difficulties in walking, her poor memory, and errors in judgment. All these symptoms were attributable to her infection, and all were modified to some extent through medical and casework therapy. This points up the need for integration and understanding of medical and social information on the part of social workers. It also points up the need for constant interpretation by the Vancouver Venereal Disease Clinic of the medical, social, and emotional aspects of venereal disease. Diagnostically oriented and planned casework to support medical treatment is essential if social-work skills are to be appropriately used to the benefit of the patient.

In both cases used illustratively in this report there was evidence that gains could have been made earlier if there had been recognition of the possibilities of using rehabilitative help and casework services. It seems to be a matter of recognizing where strengths can be supported and crippling conflicts reduced to produce movement and growth. The primary need was for medical treatment, but without planned and skilled casework support, the gains which were achieved might not have resulted.

In terms of preventive public health, there seems to be a need for some recreation resources for the younger age-groups in the Greater Vancouver area, together with hostel-type boarding homes for the many young people who drift into the Greater Vancouver area from other parts of the Province. Many could benefit from this, at least until they are able to make more permanent plans of their own. The older age-groups have many financial, social, and medical needs which are only partially met, and theirs is a fringe adjustment in a large, complex, and cold environment.

The over-all experience of this period, however, points up the need for clearer definitions of appropriate sexual behaviour for younger people, adequate education in

sexual behaviour, and co-ordination of services for adolescents and young adults. The implications of working with younger people were that social and sexual mores may be altering, and it would be to the best interests of society if these could be studied and evaluated.

Respectfully submitted.

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