

appropriate referral. To achieve this, the staff, particularly the welfare officers, must keep up to date on the resources available to them and staff training both by in-service courses and case conferences with advisers must be a continuing process.

The co-operation we receive from veterans organizations, public and private agencies, employers, benevolent and trust funds, continues to facilitate greatly the work we do and is worthy of appreciation.

During the past year activities continued at a high level. Some 12,600 applications for war veterans allowances were processed compared with about 13,000 for 1962/63. The maintenance of accounts required a higher level of activity by field officers. Some 19,700 recipients of W.V.A. received assistance from the assistance fund, almost 1,400 more than in 1962/63, and 92 per cent of this assistance was made in the form of continuing monthly grants.

Although we expect about 1,000 trainees under the children of war dead (education assistance) act this year, the intake is expected to be slightly lower than a year ago. The peak year of intake was reached in 1961/62. During the past year, 48 students continued to receive benefits under the extension provision.

The intake for this year is not complete yet so all I can tell you is that so far this year 34 applications for extensions have been received. Twenty-seven of them already have been approved by the minister and the balance are in process.

This act continues to provide vital assistance to a worthy group of young people.

The trust funds continue to work in concert with the benevolent funds to deal with emergency cases which are beyond the means of any one fund to achieve a solution, which often, 3 or more sources must be tapped to provide. This type of coordinated effort is indispensable.

Mr. Chairman we shall try to answer any questions which may arise during the consideration of these estimates.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, sir.

Mr. CHATTERTON: I would like to put a question to Mr. Rider.

To what extent are the Veterans' Land Act field men used for your field investigations in respect of welfare services?

Mr. RIDER: Sometimes we help one another but, generally speaking, not too much. The Veterans' Land Act officers are highly trained in their own areas. My welfare officers are highly trained in their areas. There is a limit to what you can expect any one man to absorb in counselling him, and apart from general counselling and referral of cases to one another we do not do very much of one another's work. But, we try to cross refer cases where needed.

Mr. CHATTERTON: Am I correct that in Alberta your field work is carried out by the V.L.A. field men?

Mr. RIDER: On occasion.

Mr. CHATTERTON: But, not regularly?

Mr. RIDER: No.

Mr. McINTOSH: Why was the district services administration transferred from this branch?

Mr. RIDER: The district services never were in this branch.

Mr. McINTOSH: Well, they were under item 5, and I presume that was the same vote before.

Mr. MACE: This is not so. District services administration was always a separate vote in the past. It always has been separated from welfare services.

Mr. McINTOSH: But it came under item 5.