

the provinces themselves to old age and blind pensioners. Alberta and British Columbia pay supplementary allowances of \$5 a month; Saskatchewan and Manitoba, \$1.25 a month; Nova Scotia, an amount up to \$10 a month, based on the merits of the individual case, with a limitation of the total income including allowance to \$365 a year; and Ontario, an additional 15% of the amount of the pension paid.

The Minister of Finance stated that on the basis of 183,601 old age pensioners and 6,374 blind pensioners in Canada at March 31, 1943, the total annual cost of the supplementary war pension would be \$11,398,500, of which the Dominion's share, which will be a charge against the war appropriation, would be \$8,548,875 in a full year.

Under the provisions of the Old Age Pensions Act as it was first enacted, the federal Department of Labour, which was at that time the administering department, paid quarterly to each province one-half of the net sum paid by the provincial pension authority during the preceding three months. At the 1931 session of the Dominion Parliament, however, the Act was amended, the amount of the Dominion contribution being increased from 50% to 75% of the net sum.

In order to avoid duplication of departmental activities, and to secure centralization of responsibility in the carrying out of the provisions of the Act, involving accounting control and supervision, the administration of the Old Age Pensions Act was transferred from the federal Department of Labour to the federal Department of Finance from April 1, 1935.

An amendment to the Old Age Pensions Act, assented to on March 31, 1937, provides for the payment of pensions to blind persons who have attained the age of 40 years and have fulfilled other conditions set out in the Act. Recipients of such a pension must be so incapacitated by blindness as to be unable to perform any work for which sight is essential, and must not be in receipt of a pension or allowance in respect of blindness under the Pension Act or the War Veterans' Allowance Act. The maximum pension payable to a blind person, whether married or unmarried, is \$240 a year not including the special war supplement under P.C. 6367 or supplementary allowances, if any, payable by the province in which he resides. If, however, a blind person marries another blind person after the date of the amendment, the maximum pension is reduced to \$120.

In the case of both old age and blind pensions, where a pensioner is the owner of an interest in a dwelling house in which he resides and the pension authority accepts a transfer to it of such interest, the pension payable to the pensioner is not subject to any reduction in respect of the annual value of such interest. The pension authority is empowered, however, on the death of the pensioner or on his ceasing to use such dwelling house as his place of residence, to sell the pensioner's interest therein and to retain out of the proceeds of such sale the amount of all payments made to the pensioner by way of pensions in excess of the amount he would have received if such interest had not been transferred to the pension authority, together with interest on the payments at the rate of 5% compounded annually.

A pension authority is entitled to recover out of the estate of any deceased pensioner the sum of the pension payments made to such pensioner from time to time, together with interest at 5% compounded