

If the war has shown one thing more than another, it has shown the importance of a revitalized citizenry.

Perhaps I should add that the fundamental basis for children's allowances is that the wage system takes no account of the family status of the wage-earner, and that over a considerable sector of Canadian industry the wages being paid are not sufficient to give a worker with a family an income which will keep that family in health and decency according to any reasonable standard. In such cases the family income must be supplemented. Allowances paid for all children afford the simplest, wisest and cheapest way of supplementing the family income.

I wish to emphasize the fact that family allowances have never been intended as a substitute for higher wages nor will they serve as such. Through creating a demand for commodities of all kinds, they will create a demand for labour. This, if it has any effect at all, will tend to send wages up rather than send them down. This has been the experience in countries where family allowances have been part of the economy.