

industry through pension, hospital, surgical and health plans. By 1957, the number of Canadians enrolled in hospital plans of various kinds was approaching four million and a national hospital insurance plan was being organized by the Federal Government in co-operation with the provinces.

The most important federal benefits are the Family Allowances and Old Age Pensions. All children under sixteen whose parents have been resident in Canada for a year are eligible for Family Allowances which amount to six dollars monthly for each child under ten and eight dollars for children between ten and sixteen. The allowances are not taxable.

Every Canadian aged seventy or over who has been a resident for at least ten years receives a federal pension of fifty-five dollars monthly. Some provinces supplement this with

a further sum to aged persons of proven need. Needy persons between sixty-five and sixty-nine may receive fifty-five dollars if they have lived in Canada for at least ten years. If need is established, blind Canadians and those who have been totally and permanently disabled, and who are over the age of eighteen, also receive a pension of fifty-five dollars a month.

Organized labour has played an important part in bringing about the large body of labour legislation for the benefit of the wage-earner. (There are about 1.3 million members of labour unions in Canada, most of them affiliated with the Canadian Labour Congress). Provincial and federal legislation provides for minimum standards for hours, wages and a variety of working conditions, though most workers enjoy higher than the minimum standards. The post-war



2

period has brought a steady improvement in wages and in conditions of work. The trend towards a five-day, 40-hour working week has become general. There are labour relations acts in all provinces to promote collective bargaining and to settle labour disputes.

Since 1941, the Federal Government has operated a contributory scheme of compulsory unemployment insurance and a nation-wide free employment service. With certain exceptions all wage or salary earners making less than forty-eight hundred dollars a year, and others working on a piece-work basis, contribute to the scheme on the basis of their earnings. Weekly benefits range from six dollars to thirty.

Every province has a workmen's compensation law to protect those disabled by industrial accident or disease caused by conditions of work.

The amounts paid are determined by the worker's earnings and the seriousness of the accident; they can go as high as \$4,000 a year. If a workman is killed as a result of his job, his widow and dependants are paid fixed monthly sums.

High standards are enjoyed by the Canadian wage earner, who is protected by enlightened legislation in all provinces:

1) This working man and his family enjoy an outing at a picnic ground

2) Management and labour work together to solve problems. Here a labour representative speaks in behalf of his fellow workers



1