

one-quarter of all governmental expenditures in this field, although they are twelve to fifteen times as great as they were before the First World War.

Canada's Federal Measures

In Canada, besides what is done by voluntary agencies and by the provincial and municipal governments, the Federal Government has its own comprehensive social programme. On the federal level, besides support for housing, aid to farmers and fishermen, care of Indians and Eskimos, and a number of other public health and welfare programmes, there are five major measures. These are Canada's pillars of social justice.

- (a) Unemployment Insurance
- (b) The Veterans' Charter
- (c) Family Allowances
- (d) The National Health Programme
- (e) The Old Age Security Programme

(a) Unemployment Insurance

Canada's system of Unemployment Insurance is the cornerstone of economic security for our wage-earning population. Under this act, passed in 1940, a substantial measure of protection is provided for nearly 3,000,000 Canadian workers and their families. Regular insurance contributions, graded according to earnings, are paid by employers and employees, and supplemented by a large federal contribution.

Since the inauguration of this measure, benefits amounting to about \$400,000,000 have been paid out to Canadian workers and their families during periods of enforced idleness, and large reserves have been accumulated to provide against unemployment in the future.

(b) The Veterans' Charter

The Veterans' Charter includes a series of enactments during the years 1943-46, which probably have not been excelled anywhere. Like its American counterpart, it provides a wide range of services, including cash gratuities on discharge, credits to help veterans re-establish themselves in civilian life, assistance in land settlement and priorities in housing, university education and vocational training, and special life insurance. There are also federal hospitals and health services for veterans.

(c) Family Allowances

Under the Family Allowances Act of 1944, payments ranging from \$5.00 to \$8.00 a month are made to Canadian parents for each child under 16. Allowances are currently being paid for 4,500,000 children in 2,000,000 Canadian families, at an annual cost of \$325,000,000.

These allowances are designed to help correct the inflexibility of the industrial wage system which makes no provision for variations in family size. Since our children, as builders of the nation's future, are in a very real sense national resources, we believe that through this measure some of the responsibility for their maintenance and training should be borne by the whole nation.