



A NATIONAL undertaking in Canada means a task four thousand miles broad, with nine provinces and several races to take into consideration. Nevertheless, there are bold hearts and ready hands, equal to national needs and emergencies—and never were the demands more great nor the response more generous, than in this after-the-war year, 1920.

It is more than two years since the Canadian National Institute for the Blind received its Dominion Charter and set forth on its simple but strenuous task to ameliorate the condition of the Blind. In order to understand the field of activities open to the organization, it may be well to review what had already been done in Canada for those deprived of sight. The work of Sir Frederick Fraser and the Halifax School for the Blind, is known throughout Canada, and during the last fifty years, hundreds of blind boys and girls have been trained in the institution over which Sir Frederick presides. Sir Frederick has also interested himself in work for the adult blind and is one of the honorary vice-presidents of the Institute, being also on the Board of Management of the Maritime Division.

In the Province of Quebec, there are two organizations for the blind: the Montreal Association, for which Mr. and Mrs. Philip Layton have been prominent workers, and which carries on its work largely among English-

speaking children and adults, and the Nazareth School, of which Mr. Joseph Beaubien, one of the honorary vice-presidents of the Institute, is an active administrator. The Province of Ontario has a Government School for the Blind at Brantford, which is concerned with the education and training of blind children exclusively. Mr. W. B. Race, B.A., is the Director of this widely-known institution and is, as a private citizen, a member of the Council of the Institute.

The Ottawa Association for the Blind, of which Mr. J. L. Payne was president, carried on industrial training and employment for adults for some years and must be commended for breaking the ground in this important field of work. In January, 1920, the Institute assumed the liabilities and took over the assets of this Association in the Capital, the first practical result of this transaction being that the broom-shop in Ottawa will in future be operated by the Institute as one of the chain of C.N.I.B. shops, constituting the Industrial Department for Men.

There is an organization for the Blind in existence in the West, the Western Association in Vancouver, under whose auspices a small school for blind children is being conducted. Mr. A. A. Archibald, B.A., the head of that association, is now superintendent for the Western Division, having taken a deep interest in its organization.

**T**HE growth of the activities of the C.N.I.B. (for by these initials the Institute is known) since the incorporation in March, 1918, has been amazing—but a brief statement of the events preceding the formation of the National Institute may be of interest. Someone has said that every great project is talked about for many months, or even years, by the few, before it appeals