

industry through pension, hospital, surgical and health plans. By 1961, public hospitalization plans were in operation in all Canadian provinces with virtually the entire population enrolled. One province has adopted a full medical-care plan, while this question is being actively considered in the other nine provinces.

The most important federal benefits are the Family Allowances and Old Age Pensions. All children under 16 whose parents have been resident in Canada for a year are eligible for Family Allowances which amount to \$6 monthly for each child under 10 and \$8 for children between 10 and 16. The allowances are not taxable.

Every Canadian aged 70 or over who has been a resident for at least ten years receives a federal pension of \$65 monthly. Some provinces supplement this with a further sum to

aged persons of proven need. Needy persons between 65 and 69 may receive \$65 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 18, also receive a pension of \$65 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 1.5 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 period has brought a steady improve-



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ment in wages and in conditions of work. The 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 \$4,800 a year, and others working on a piece-work basis, contribute to the scheme on the basis of their earnings. Weekly benefits range from \$6 to \$30.

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 serious-

ness of the accident; they can go as high as \$4,500 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. Miners are among the many working groups in the Canadian labour movement

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