

in advance against the inevitable contingencies and to that extent makes it unnecessary when adversity comes for the state to step in with improvised and expensive construction or other remedial programs. Inevitably there will be differences of opinion in regard to such matters and progress can only be permanent if the steps taken carry the general judgment. Advances in social welfare involve a price, and willingness of society to pay that price must be a condition of such advances.

In our federal state, responsibility for social security is divided between the provinces and the central government, and it has been the aim of the Government with which I have been associated to promote the maximum degree of co-operation between these two levels of Government. In August, 1945, the Dominion Government put forward proposals which assumed a broad federal responsibility, in co-operation with provincial governments, for the support of national minimum standards of social services. Unfortunately, it did not prove possible to achieve agreement of all provinces on the financial arrangements which was a necessary condition to the acceptance by the Dominion of these added responsibilities.

Nevertheless, even though progress has not been as rapid as some might have wished, it has been substantial. Before the war our social security program was limited to a relatively meagre old age pension plan. During and since the war, however, we have improved this plan and expanded our social security program to include unemployment insurance and the payment of family allowances in respect of every Canadian child under sixteen years of age. Within a few years, therefore, the prospect of the "dole" has been banished from the minds of many tens of thousands of workers who have now been able to accumulate the right to receive payments over a substantial period in the event of unemployment, and the principle has been accepted that children are a national asset in which we can afford to invest on a substantial scale. You may get some idea of the magnitude of these plans when I tell you that the expenditure by the Federal Government of Canada on the three forms of social security I have mentioned has been multiplied over tenfold in the last ten years.

In 1948 we advanced another step in this field. The Federal Government in May, 1948, announced that it would assist financially any provincial government which would undertake to expand and improve its public health program. The new program which commits the Federal Government to an additional expenditure of \$150 million over a five-year period on health services will assist the provinces in a number of fields. It consists of three parts: the first, a health survey grant; the second, a group of grants covering generally public health, tuberculosis, venereal diseases and cancer control, mental health, crippling conditions in children, professional training and public health research; and the third, a grant to assist in the provision in hospital accommodation.

Much remains to be done and progress will depend to a very large extent on our success in working out the necessary co-operative arrangements with the provincial governments. The progress we have already made, however, we have begun to share with others.

Many people have been looking to Canada for a home in which to pick up again the scattered threads of life which the troubles of Europe have severed. We are happy that about 104,000 of these people have been able to enter Canada in 1948. Of these, the largest group, over 46,000, consisted of displaced persons from the refugee camps in Western Germany. These people, coming principally from the countries of Eastern Europe, have brought to Canada many new skills which will serve to diversify the fabric of our national life. Their industry and their hardy independence will strengthen the fibre of our people. I think that all of us in Canada and the United States have something to learn from the coming of these new citizens to our shores. They have come to build new lives in a New World. If they,

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