

promote greater production per hour of labour and to increase hours of work without additional pay. The interests of the worker, of the employers and of the general public alike are at stake. If prices go up it is because there are not enough goods to go around. Let us, therefore, increase production without increasing the demand by putting more money into circulation. If we all use these three means on a broad enough scale, inflation will halt, the value of our currency and the cost of living will be stabilized.

I come now to social legislation.

The fundamental principle of liberalism is to unfetter the individual; to help him overcome the obstacles which prevent him from reaching a comparative degree of well-being and of earthly happiness, objects of his legitimate ambition. I view with a great deal of gratification the progress accomplished for more than thirty years by the party in which I have served as a humble worker, as a humble soldier in the ranks. Our great leaders, the Right Honourable W. L. Mackenzie King and the Right Honourable Louis St. Laurent, were deeply convinced that social injustice is inhuman, evil and immoral. They have always preached and applied the same creed; they have always endeavoured to improve the living conditions of all classes and to relieve distress.

We all of us have sought to help our fellow men acquire more wealth and greater well-being. We have endeavoured to ensure a fairer distribution of goods and to abolish privileges.

From the standpoint of culture and civilization, scientific discoveries and economic progress are of value only if supported by a social policy based on distributive justice. Modern progress does not consist in creating a race of slaves and of automatons, as in Russia. It consists in dispelling fear, in ensuring the respect and freedom of the human being. There is still much human misery in many countries, but in Canada wise legislation has already given us a notable increase in material welfare.

Let us remember too, that Canada has striven at the same time, to share substantially in the settlement of world problems.

If, without foreign assistance, we have been able to go through two world wars, a world-wide depression and the still lasting period of retrenchment and sacrifice, we owe it to our leaders who have managed to preserve our people from scourges which, elsewhere, assail humanity. They had faith in the lofty destiny of Canada. Above all they endeavoured to apply the principles of social justice through a wider distribution of the wealth of this world.

I will now enumerate here social security laws adopted since 1927 by the federal parliament.

1927:—Original Old Age Pensions Act—\$20 monthly to needy persons 70 years of age with 20 years' residence in Canada—British subjects—income ceilings \$365 a year single, \$730 a year married, inclusive of pension.

1931-1940:—Series of annual measures—Unemployment Relief Act and legislation of similar character designed to assist provinces and municipalities in relief of unemployment.

1937:—Amendment to Old Age Pensions Act to include blind persons 40 years of age and over—conditions of eligibility same as for old age pensions—income ceilings \$120 a year higher.

1940:—Unemployment Insurance Act—contributions by employers, wage earners and government—numerous amendments since 1940 designed to increase coverage and to enlarge benefits in various ways—3 million workers now covered—total benefits paid out in last fiscal year were \$83 million—total benefits since January 1, 1941, \$375 million—reserve fund now stands at approximately \$600 million.

1943:—Increase in amount of old age pension and blind pension from \$20 to \$25 a month under War Measures Act.

1944:—Increase in income ceiling for old age and blind pensions by \$60 a year under the War Measures Act.

1945:—Family Allowances Act—benefits now being provided to 1,900,000 families on behalf of 4,200,000 children under 16 years of age—annual cost in current fiscal year \$321 million—expenditures since first payments commenced in July 1945 over \$1,600,000,000—payments at the rate of \$5 per child under six, \$6 per child under ten, \$7 per child under thirteen, \$8 per child under sixteen.

1944-45:—The Veterans' Charter—legislation under this general heading covers a wide variety of enactments on behalf of veterans of World Wars I and II—disability pensions, war veterans' allowances, rehabilitation grants, training grants, loans, assistance in land settlement, etc., etc.—annual cost of veterans' benefits now runs approximately \$170 million a year.

1947:—Amendments to Old Age Pensions Act increasing amount of old age and blind pension to \$30 monthly, abolishing citizenship requirements, relaxing residence requirements, increasing income ceilings to \$600 single and \$1,080 married (\$120 a year more in the case of the blind), and reducing the age of eligibility for blind persons from 40 to 21 years of age.