

most varied and most delicious seafoods. The Baie des Chaleurs salmon and lobster have won a place of honour on the Canadian and American markets. Each fall the markets of eastern and central Canada are filled with our Caraquet and Shippigan oysters and we have earned first place among the Maritime Provinces for the production of this delicious mollusc, for which there is such a great demand. In winter, our silver smelts are the delight of Canadian and American gourmets. Our various paper industries give work, in the woods or in the plants, to 2,000 people. The lumber industry is one of our greatest sources of revenue. Finally, since a few years, we have a brand new industry, the peat industry. The important peat-bogs of the large plains of Shippigan and Lamèque have brought to these parishes an industrial development of a high order which, in turn, has completely changed the economic outlook of this part of Gloucester.

The prosperity and happiness of a country usually go hand in hand with the intellectual development and educational standard of its citizens. In this connection our Canadian colleges and universities have played a most important part in the development of Canada and the establishment of the unparalleled prosperity which we now enjoy. The importance of our universities, from a national point of view, was clearly demonstrated by their representatives in each one of the provinces visited by the Massey Commission. The deans of these universities also underlined the growing financial difficulties with which they are faced. Since the end of the war and in all the provinces, the student body has been much greater than the universities were equipped or could afford to handle. I know, we all know of dozens of young men who are prevented from even starting their technical or professional training because of the overcrowding of our schools of higher learning.

With the ever-increasing cost of education, private donations, public subscriptions and provincial grants are no longer adequate to meet annual expenses.

In order to maintain the intellectual development of Canadian citizens at a high standard, it becomes increasingly evident that the federal government will eventually have to play its part and lend assistance to our universities, along the lines adopted to remedy the shortage of hospital beds as a means of ensuring national health. In the national economy, intellectual health is as necessary as physical health. If we want doctors, dentists, nurses, engineers and technicians, if we want to further scientific research, our universities will have to have more funds.

There is a way to provide for these needs without encroaching upon the sacred rights of provincial autonomy.

It is to be hoped that the Massey Commission will make recommendations which take the needs of our universities into account. We have mentioned intellectual health. As a doctor, I would be remiss in my professional duty if I failed to mention the government's plans for improving the physical health of the Canadian people.

For more than a third of a century, the different political parties have advocated national health programs or health insurance. But it took the last war and the appalling revelations of the defects and weaknesses uncovered by the medical examination of our recruits to show the urgent need of setting up immediately a far-reaching and national plan for the preservation and improvement of the health of our people.

During the war, all the living strength of the nation was bent upon the defeat of the enemy. Within the limits of their means and in their usual manner, the provinces continued to care for public health which for that matter was their sole responsibility. But it became more and more apparent that it would be necessary, and without further delay, to set in motion a wider plan, providing better co-operation and financial resources of a national order to meet the health deficiencies which had astonished us at the beginning of the war.

That is why, as early as 1943, the speech from the throne indicated the government's intention to launch a far-reaching health insurance program meant to co-ordinate federal and provincial services and to include the establishment of a health insurance plan. Unfortunately, it was impossible to obtain the federal-provincial co-ordination upon which the success of a national plan depended because, at the federal-provincial conference of 1945, it was not possible to reach an agreement with certain provinces, so that the plans set forth in 1943 were left in abeyance.

Finally, in 1948, the Dominion Government, conscious of the ever-growing need for implementing certain health measures with more vigour and energy amended the original proposals placed before the provinces in 1945 and voted the necessary appropriations in order to carry out the new health programme outlined by the Prime Minister on May 14, 1948.