

on the average, during the past three years, benefits which on a yearly basis would range from \$575.00 to \$640.00. Unemployment assistance would provide them with 85 per cent of these amounts.

The present benefits paid to farmers under the Prairie Farm Assistance Act fall far short of these amounts. The maximum amount payable to any farmer under P.F.A.A. is \$500, but careful examination of the record shows that the highest average payment for complete crop failure in any province in any of the six years since the Act went into effect was under \$400.

It is neither suggested nor implied that farmers who suffer only a partial loss of income should receive the same benefits as unemployed workers. It does, however, seem reasonable that farmers with a complete crop failure should receive no worse treatment than the unemployed. Yet farmers in the three Prairie Provinces have received an average of only \$369 per year and those in the lowest yield category of an "emergency year" only \$250 per year in the past six-year period.

In order to obtain unemployment benefits presently equivalent to \$640 a year, workers contribute from 12 to 36 cents a week or from \$6.24 to \$18.72 a year. A rough estimate of the average contribution per worker can be made by dividing the number of persons in insurable employment at April 1, 1943, into the total employee contributions for the fiscal year 1943-44 and the same can be done for 1944-45 figures. The results show an average contribution per worker of \$16.50 in 1943-44 and \$15.57 in 1944-45. We recognize that these contributions are only approximate since the number insured at April 1 in any year may be unduly low or high and a number of persons may be insured for only part of the fiscal year.

Under the provisions of the Prairie Farm Assistance Act, western farmers contribute one per cent of the value of