

farmer, but Canada as a whole since a stabilized western economy is necessary for the economic welfare of the country. Our present proposals are designed solely to indicate how P.F.A.A. can be made a more effective instrument for the stabilization of western agriculture.

Unemployment Benefits vs P.F.A.A. Benefits

Unemployment insurance benefits range from \$4.08 to \$14.40 a week depending on the rate of contribution by the worker and whether or not he has dependants. The dominion proposals would provide unemployment assistance at 85 per cent of these rates to all uninsured workers (and to those insured workers whose benefits had been exhausted), steps being taken at the same time to bring as many workers as possible directly under unemployment insurance. Unemployment insurance benefits paid continuously for a period of 52 weeks would involve payments ranging from \$212.16 to \$748.80. While few, if any, workers at present draw these benefits for a whole year, the possible yearly payment is the only appropriate figure to use for comparison with the assistance required by farmers under P.F.A.A. since a farmer who suffers a crop failure needs assistance for the full twelve-month period, that is until his next crop is marketed.

Unemployment insurance statistics show that far more workers are at present qualifying for benefits at the upper end of the scale than at the lower end. In 1943, for example, the average daily benefit paid was \$1.84 which would be equivalent to \$574.08 for a year of 312 working days. In 1944 it was \$1.91 equivalent to \$595.92 a year and in 1945, \$1.95½ equivalent to \$609.96 a year. In December, 1945, and January, 1946, the latest months for which figures are available, the average daily benefit was \$2.05 which would amount to \$639.60 on a yearly basis. It is evident, therefore, that unemployed insured workers have been receiving