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SOCIAL INSURANCE AND THE WAR

Four years of war have changed the conditions on the lives of Canadian men and women, and have brought into focus the changing patterns of their social needs. The changing strength of Canada in the family of nations and the effectiveness of experience resulting from that association, the nature of the struggle against the Axis powers, and the expansion of her industrial economy to the point where she stands as fourth among the United Nations in the production of raw materials and supplies, have given a profound impetus to the social consciousness within Canada, which, in its turn, is clearly manifest in the new emphasis upon social planning and national security for all.

The tremendous increase in Canada's productive output has been accompanied by the attainment of mass unemployment as a social factor. Such unemployment as still exists is confined almost exclusively within the category of social problems, including the period of transition between jobs, production stoppages in industrial units, and certain other types of inactivity of working time of a similar nature. With the exception of those who, through physical or mental infirmity, are unable to perform useful labor, the great majority of those without employment at any one moment may look forward by the definite prospect of further employment.

Despite the increased burden of taxation placed upon the wage-earner for the financing of the national war effort, consumer incomes and purchasing power have been increased through several sources of the population, and the gross earnings of many family groups are now substantially higher than their pre-war levels. This condition has had a stabilizing effect upon

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