

was appointed in 1924, to make an enquiry into the need for old age pensions in Canada and legislation based on the report of this committee, after correspondence with the provinces, was passed in 1927. Subsequent amendments to this act have broadened its application and made pensions payable also to blind persons over 40 years of age.

The Unemployment Insurance Act

was passed in 1940 in the darkest days of the war. This afforded its protection to more than 4,600,000 Canadians - over 2,000,000 workers and their dependents. This measure was taken at that time to anticipate the changes likely to follow the ending of war work, and to act as a buffer against possible upsets. Being enacted so early, it will be all the more effective. The building up of the necessary fund during the wartime period of full employment has created a substantial backlog to meet post-war emergencies.