

for the citizen to provide for his old age, it was realized that the wage structure on which our industrial economy is based cannot be related to the number of children in a family. Family Allowances have proved very successful in Canada in overcoming this inequality between family incomes. They equalize the opportunity for children and help provide them with food, clothing, shelter and educational opportunities to make them productive citizens. Family Allowances, which now pay \$22,000,000 a month to 3,750,000 children, represent an important investment in the future of Canada.

(3) Another great federal social measure is the Unemployment Insurance Act of 1940 which took account of the fact that many workers are unable at times to find employment. Through the insurance plan, by which small regular payments give protection against large irregular risks, reserves of \$450,000,000 have been built against the unavoidable loss of work. Some 3,000,000 of Canada's workers are under the protection of this great measure.

5. NATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAMME

I should like now to outline briefly the new National Health Programme. I have no doubt that you have read about this \$30,000,000 annual programme which marks such a tremendous step towards providing better health services for all Canadians.

As health is primarily a provincial responsibility, federal expenditures on health were formerly not very considerable. Some idea of the increased interest of the Federal Government in Canada's health is seen in the fact that -- apart from health services for veterans -- federal health expenditures will now be four times what they formerly were.

This programme for Canada's national health opens a new era in Canadian health history. I found universal agreement among the provincial health authorities who met in Ottawa last week that this programme would represent a very important addition to their efforts. In the closest cooperation, we can look forward to greatly increased health activity from which every citizen should benefit.

(a) Health Survey Grants

As you know, the National Health Programme is divided into three main parts. First, there are the Health Survey Grants, totalling \$625,000, which are to be distributed among the provinces to enable them to study their health and hospital needs, and to make plans from which a provincial health insurance scheme could be developed. In addition there are the National Health Grants and the Hospital Construction Grants.

(b) National Health Grants

The National Health Grants will total \$17,000,000 in the first year, and later rise to \$23,000,000 annually. There are eight separate grants to encourage increased activity in the fields of public health, public health research, to train new public health workers, and to accelerate the attacks on tuberculosis, cancer, mental illness, venereal disease and conditions that cripple children.

(c) Hospital Construction Grants

The third important section of the National Health Programme is the provision for assistance to the provinces for hospital construction. These grants should make possible not only the encouragement of large urban hospitals but also of small hospital units or nursing stations in the more remote rural areas.