

Supply—Health and Welfare

It must be specified that 84 per cent of children under 16 are dependants of a fraction of only 19 per cent of the labour force.

To train the next generation is the responsibility of less than one fifth of the labour force and it is only fair that the expenses incurred be supported by all.

There might be an excuse if the general condition of the national economy required such a strict and faulty distribution of production and wealth. But no, this country of ours, Canada, is considered as the second nation in the world. But no, the following statistics will make it clear that if some people lack the necessities of life, others enjoy prosperity and the security which it gives, while piling up surpluses, profits and capital that can be envied by the most ambitious capitalists in Canada and even in the world.

Here is, for instance, a few samples of the general prosperity in Canada with regard to great factors of the national economy and their constant progress between 1944 and 1964. Let us take the year 1944 because it coincides with a general survey of finance and banking that year and with the establishment of family allowances which have remained at the 1944 level while all other sectors increased three, four, five, six, eight or nine times.

Let us have a good look in order to see where and how the Canadian economy may be improved.

The principal ministers are responsible for this situation.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) has control over all the administration of the country and its citizens.

The Minister of Justice (Mr. Favreau) has to keep watch mainly on economic justice, which concerns all citizens in the most sensitive material and physical areas: money, cash, the vital minimum purchasing power.

The Minister of Finance (Mr. Gordon) controls all the monetary, economic and political machinery and procedures for levying taxes on incomes and profits. It is incumbent on him, especially, and on others also, to analyse the incomes, expenses and profits among citizens, families and institutions.

The Secretary of State (Mr. Lamontagne) keeps an eye on all the relations between the population and the ministers, and above all, he is an economist and understands professionally the significance of the primary financial needs, of the vital strict minimum for each citizen, as an individual, in the family circle and in the framework of the private and public institutions.

The Minister of Industry (Mr. Drury) knows very well that the whole of the production is intended for consumption and not for warehouses or capitalization. He knows also that the total purchasing power distributed among labour and among capital following production, directly affects only 7,000,000 citizens in Canada and leaves without income the 12,200,000 dependant citizens: children, students or adults unable to earn a living on account of age, illness or unemployment.

The Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Sharp) knows quite well that trade is going at a slow pace, because there is unemployment and even poverty, even among families where the head is working at a single man's salary. Equal work, equal pay.

Every line of business would be more prosperous and more efficient if each citizen were to receive as a matter of right a minimum living allowance, over and above his wages as head of family which he receives in return for his labour.

Those six ministers must examine this proposal and consider that it is a problem for which they are personally responsible. All 26 ministers would readily approve any decision thus taken. The Minister of National Health and Welfare would only have to distribute \$30 instead of \$6 and \$8.

I understand that to bring up family allowances to the level of the cost of living in all economy sectors, they should be raised to \$30 monthly.

[Text]

The Deputy Chairman: I must advise the hon. member that his time has expired.

Mr. Turner: Mr. Chairman, I do not need to remind the minister, charming as she always is, and especially at this time of the evening, that her department began in one room in 1944 under the administration of the late Brooke Claxton. I begin what remarks I have to contribute this evening by paying tribute to the late Brooke Claxton, and I want to say, as one of his successors in the riding of St. Lawrence-St. George in Montreal, which he represented for 14 years from 1940 until his retirement from politics in 1954, how pleased I am and how pleased the people of his former constituency, and indeed the population of the metropolis of Canada generally are that the new imposing building of the Department of National Health and Welfare, which is to be dedicated and opened on October 7, is to be named the Brooke Claxton building.