

relatively light, but who may have to provide relief for very large numbers of farmers in years of drought and crop failure. In its January Submission this Province contended that if the Dominion is to give equal treatment to all the provinces, it must guarantee to the self-employed who suffer loss of income from causes beyond their control a measure of economic security at least comparable to that which it proposes for employees in trade and industry. The Government of Saskatchewan suggested that this might be achieved by (a) a guaranteed floor under prices and (b) a crop insurance scheme or, in the alternative, an extension of present benefits under the Prairie Farm Assistance Act.

The Dominion has already taken the first step toward a guaranteed floor under prices by its Agricultural Prices Support legislation. If this legislation is fully implemented and is combined with Federal marketing boards, similar to the Canadian Wheat Board, for all grains, livestock and livestock products, protection of the farmer who manages to produce a crop is reasonably well assured. But for the farmer who suffers a total or partial crop failure, additional assistance is required. The Government of Saskatchewan contends that this problem is as much a national responsibility as unemployment relief. A national scheme of crop insurance financed by contributions from the federal and provincial governments and from all farmers in Canada would be the ideal solution. Failing such a scheme, a substantial extension of P.F.A.A. benefits is absolutely essential if our farmers are to be guaranteed protection against loss of income even roughly equivalent to that projected for industrial employees. In this submission we propose to demonstrate that present P.F.A.A. benefits fall far short of unemployment benefits and to suggest the lines along which such farm benefits should be revised.

Our basic premise is that the Prairie Farm Assistance Act is good as far as it goes and benefits not only the western