

The Address—Mr. J. F. Browne

they amounted to \$111 million. In 1961-62 they are estimated at \$550 million or five times as much.

The total of all payments to the provinces in 1956-57 was \$689 million. In 1961-62 they are estimated at \$1,470 million. In other words they have more than doubled since the present government came into office.

But the startling thing about these figures, Mr. Speaker, is that notwithstanding the vast increase in payments to the provinces by the federal government, the average Canadian pays a lower rate of income tax to the federal government than he did when this government came into office. When one takes that in consideration, I am sure all will agree that I was not unjustified in stating at the outset of my remarks that the Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) had devoted himself to the welfare of the average Canadian.

Hon. members will recall that at the last session I placed on the record of *Hansard* copies of the actual income tax forms for 1956 and 1959. These documents showed quite clearly that the average Canadian was indeed paying a lower rate of tax.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): That is not accurate.

Mr. Browne (Vancouver-Kingsway): The documents are on the record of *Hansard* and will speak for themselves a lot more accurately than the—

Mr. Fulton: Martin bureau of statistics.

Mr. Browne (Vancouver-Kingsway): They will speak a lot more accurately than the hon. member for Essex East.

In considering the welfare of the average Canadian it must be recognized that the most important thing is that he has to be in a position to obtain gainful employment in order to provide security and happiness for his family. Indeed the greatest threat to the peace of mind and security of the average man throughout the world has been recurring periods of unemployment. It is in trying to ensure the opportunity of employment for all of our people that the government has made its most strenuous efforts.

Limitations of time will not permit me to recite all of the vast array of measures taken by the government in this field. I can honestly say, however, that in my opinion its efforts in this regard have far exceeded those of any previous government in our history. It is unfortunately a problem which short term measures alone cannot entirely cure although the government's actions have considerably improved the situation. The government has, of course, long since commenced a number of long term measures the results of which will become increasingly apparent.

During the last five years the total Canadian labour force has grown almost twice as fast as in the preceding five years making it necessary to create a tremendous number of new jobs. At the same time technological improvements have made it necessary for those in the labour force to have a far higher degree of education and skill than has been the case in the past.

As a result of a survey of the dominion bureau of statistics it was shown that almost half of those without jobs were young single persons between the ages of 14 and 19 most of whom needed further training in order to find suitable employment. Further training is also required by many of those in the older age groups also because their jobs have been made obsolete by rapid technical change.

Education has, of course, always been a responsibility of the provincial governments. The federal government, however, recognizing the urgency and the immensity of the problem, has stepped in to help solve it as soon as possible without infringing in any way on provincial rights, by paying to the provinces 75 per cent of the cost of building new vocational and technical training schools and 50 per cent of the cost of operating them after construction. This will be of tremendous assistance in fitting people for jobs particularly among the younger people who, as I have pointed out, need it so urgently. For those older workers who are unemployed and need retraining because of changing conditions the government pays 75 per cent of the cost.

For those who have unfortunately been unemployed the government has made substantial increases in benefits available under the Unemployment Insurance Act, both in regular and seasonal benefits. Not only have the amounts been increased but also the maximum period during which benefits may be drawn was increased from 36 to 52 weeks. The formula under which benefits may be drawn has also been made considerably easier.

Then, too, the government has set up a commission to inquire into the Unemployment Insurance Act. It is my hope that they will recommend changes which will provide a greater measure of security for the workingman and I have forwarded to them my own suggestions in this regard.

We have contained in the speech from the throne which is now before us an outline of the steps that will be taken by the government. This is a genuine indication that the government does intend to implement the measures that are necessary to protect the interests of the working people until such time as this commission can report and its recommendations be implemented.