

# CHAPTER XIX.—WELFARE SERVICES\*

## CONSPECTUS

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One of the most apt descriptions of the relationship of social security and social service to the national welfare was expressed in the following words by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, on Mar. 3, 1943, in the House of Commons, during discussion of the Resolution concerning Social Security.

"May I interject that any system of social security . . . is, or ought to be, in the nature of social service; that industry is not merely a means whereby capitalists may increase profits, or workers find the means of gaining a livelihood through wages; but that there exists also the right of the community, which makes possible the carrying on of industry, to expect to have the interest and well-being of the community and its members considered in the rewards of industry. In other words, industry exists to serve a social end, as well as to serve the needs of individuals . . .

". . . it is only by the implied expressed permission of the State that the institution of private property can exist. The justification of private property lies in the fact that the good of the greatest number will be best served. But if as a result of the institution of private property, whether it be the ownership of land or of capital, a social condition may develop which is inimical to the community as a whole, that institution has either to be modified in some particulars, controlled in some directions, or make way for some other system."

## PART I.—PROVINCIAL AND DOMINION WELFARE SERVICES

### INTRODUCTION

From a historical as well as constitutional point of view, the responsibility for social welfare in Canada has rested on the provinces, which, in turn, have delegated a large share of this responsibility to the municipalities. It is but recently, relatively speaking, that the concept of public welfare has grown to include more than poor relief, sanitation and institutions of confinement and that the provinces have undertaken to meet these expanding needs by maintaining institutions of one kind or another, child welfare services, and other specialized programs. Thus the provinces

\* The material in Part I is based on information and statistics obtained from the Dominion and Provincial authorities responsible for the administration of the various welfare services. In planning the entire chapter, the Editor has received valuable assistance from George F. Davidson, M.A., Ph. D., Executive Director, Canadian Welfare Council, Ottawa.