

themselves have latterly assumed the major role in public welfare and, even though the municipalities have continued to carry substantial burdens, the Provincial Governments have taken a direct part in co-ordinating the work and assisting by subsidies and other means. At the same time, an increasing measure of responsibility on the part of the Dominion has been in evidence: this was especially noticeable, during the pre-war depression decade, in the fields of unemployment relief, agricultural relief and old age pensions. While constitutional authority has not changed, except with respect to unemployment insurance, the pressure of events in the depression decade obliged the Dominion Government to help the provinces to shoulder their financial burdens by grants-in-aid, etc. To-day, therefore, the responsibility of the Dominion Government for problems arising in these fields has become fairly well established by custom rather than constitutional change, although what remained of unemployment relief after the introduction of unemployment insurance was turned back in 1941 to the provinces. A real effort was made by the Rowell-Sirois Commission (see the Canada Year Book 1940, pp. 1157-1163) to bring about the necessary redistribution of administrative and financial responsibility essential to the proper functioning of the Dominion and Provincial authorities in the complicated economic circumstances that are an outgrowth of the present century. This effort has still to be carried forward to a conclusion and, meantime, some degree of constitutional friction and difficulty is perhaps unavoidable.

Historically, welfare work begins with the care of the most needy and the care of the indigent, aged and infirm, homeless orphans, dependent, neglected and delinquent children, and the dependent deaf and blind. These classes have been recognized as a public responsibility since the earliest days, but the actual work of caring for them was, in great degree, undertaken by religious and philanthropic bodies, of which many were incorporated during the latter part of the nineteenth century. In many cases, government aid was granted, with official inspection as the natural corollary. As early as 1752 an orphanage was opened at Halifax, N.S., for orphans and deserted children and in Upper Canada an Act was passed in 1779 to provide for the education and support of orphan children. In the different colonies before Confederation, under various Acts of the Legislatures, houses of refuge, homes for the aged, orphanages and other charitable institutions were provided. The most serious welfare problems, particularly in Upper and Lower Canada, were those connected with immigration. Many immigrants were destitute on their arrival and were dependent on charity. In 1822, an immigrant hospital was opened at Quebec for the care of the indigent sick. Throughout the colonies before Confederation an interest in child welfare found expression in the incorporation of numerous institutions for friendless orphans and physically incapacitated children. These orphanages were largely supported by the philanthropy of societies or individuals, and, if grants of public money were received, the management was subject to government supervision. During this period, the orphanage was all that was available to the child who lacked normal home care.

Since Confederation, the principle has become generally recognized that the indigent, aged and infirm, orphans, dependent and neglected children, the deaf and dumb and the blind should be the responsibility of the State. Numerous Acts of the Provincial Legislatures have recognized municipal and provincial responsibility for these classes of the population by establishing institutions, welfare services, or other provisions for their care. In every province of Canada, public welfare organizations now exist to look after their protection and well-being. Child-welfare work as it is known to-day was not recognized as a special field for case work until toward the close of the nineteenth century. Now, noteworthy contributions are