

people, 21 p.c. by the employers, and about 32 p.c. by the Exchequer. The total cost of implementing the Plan is estimated at £697,000,000 (about \$3,125,000,000). This is estimated to be about 10 to 12 p.c. of the present United Kingdom national income if the Plan were put into effect in 1945, rising to £858,000,000 (about \$3,860,000,000) by 1965.

The Government of the United Kingdom has indicated that it will accept in principle a majority of the Beveridge proposals and legislation is being prepared to implement these. The first proposals to be taken up are to be those concerned with national health.

A United States Plan.—The Report of the National Resources Planning Board,* illustrates the terms in which the United States is thinking of the problem of social security. They are less specific than those of the British Plan. Nevertheless, the Report goes far in lining up United States with British and Canadian opinion on social security. The problem is stated in the following terms:—

- (a) The need for socially provided income is in large measure a consequence of imperfections in the operation of the national economy and by personal, physical or psychological defects, many of which can be remedied.
- (b) The public-aid problem is likely to be both large and persistent for some time to come.
- (c) The social problem as created by economic insecurity is many-sided and requires for its solution a series of diversified programs.

The report, after stating the case, outlines the ways and means whereby, in the eyes of its authors, the objectives can be achieved and freedom from want can be assured for citizens of the United States. The major objectives and recommendations are:—

(1) The vital importance of immediate planning for full economic activity and full employment is emphasized. Unemployment can, it is believed, be abolished and the national income can be maintained at high levels if the proper national and international steps are taken. But even with full employment the need for social security measures would still exist for those too old to work, too young to work, too sick to work, or who are undergoing relatively short spells of unemployment for one reason or another.

(2) Following on (1), the principle is laid down of public provision of work for all employable persons, whom private industry cannot employ, if they have been out of work for more than six months—such work carrying remuneration as nearly as possible equal to that in private employment and with the corresponding insistence on “standards of performance” required by private employment. This point and the one which follows are stressed in the United States document to a much greater extent than in the United Kingdom or Canadian reports.

(3) The development of special schemes for young people to make it possible for them to continue their education or in other cases to enable unemployed young people to acquire the work disciplines and familiarity with the use of tools that would enable them to take their place in industry on reaching adult age.

(4) The expansion of social insurance to provide minimum income for all who are unable to work through no fault of their own or who are undergoing short periods of unemployment, and to provide minimum income in cases of permanent or tem-

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