

porary disability. Recommendations are also made to increase present social insurance benefits, especially to dependants, for unemployment and disability and for the substitution of a federal system of unemployment insurance for existing State programs.

(5) A comprehensive underpinning of social security by the development of an adequate and comprehensive general public assistance program.

(6) Much greater emphasis than in the past should be placed upon preventive and constructive measures such as health measures, education and training opportunities, and a revitalization of the functions of the employment service.

Financial and Administrative Policy.—In regard to these matters the main principles laid down are: that the financing of public aid should be considered as a normal function of government and that the fiscal system should be re-organized accordingly. The distribution of financial responsibility between the various levels of government is advisable and should reflect differences in need and in fiscal capacity. Although Federal-State co-operation is preferable the allocation of administrative responsibility should be determined by capacity of the different governmental bodies and by the national importance attached to the particular program.

The Wagner Bill of June 12, 1943.—Official recognition of the social security program has gone to the point of the framing of a Bill to expand insurance benefits. This Bill, known as the Wagner-Dingell-Murray Bill, has been sent to Congressional Committee and has already been the subject of carefully directed activity.

Section 2.—Canadian Proposals for Social Welfare

In the organization of social services by any public authority, the social, political and traditional background against which they must operate is all-important. A plan workable in one country might be quite unsuited to another. Canada has her own peculiar set of difficulties that involve special problems and demand special treatment. Moreover, there are constitutional aspects to the problem that make it necessary that every angle of the question should be well thought out. Whereas the Beveridge Plan is concerned to a large extent with co-ordinating services that already exist or have their foundations in existing organizations, in Canada many services would be largely new and would have to be developed slowly. Both the Canadian Senate and the House of Commons took steps early in 1943 to examine and consider matters connected with social welfare. A Special Senate Committee on Economic Re-establishment and Social Security was set up on Mar. 5, 1943. See p. 738.

On Mar. 8, 1943, the House of Commons appointed a Special Committee, representing all parties, to examine and report on a national plan of social insurance for Canada. This Committee was asked to consider three documents: the first was the report of the Advisory Committee on Health Insurance, the second was the draft for a National Fitness Bill* for the promotion of physical education and sports, and the third was a general report on social security for Canada prepared by Dr. L. C. Marsh, for the Advisory Committee on Reconstruction.

* Under this Bill which, on the recommendation of the House Committee on Social Security was passed as the National Physical Fitness Act on July 31, 1943, a grant is approved for the improvement of the physical standards of Canadian youth through sports, athletic and other pursuits.