

Plan for Public Health and Health Insurance.*—The Dominion Government set up the Advisory Committee on Health Insurance in February, 1942, under the Director of Public Health Services, with instructions to formulate a health insurance plan. The Committee prepared drafts of suggested Dominion and provincial legislation that might form the basis of a national system of health insurance and on Mar. 16, 1943, the Minister of Pensions and National Health submitted the Report† to the House of Commons Committee.

The Draft Health Bill that accompanies the Report would empower the Dominion to make grants for public health and medical care to the provinces provided the provinces maintained their health services up to the prescribed standard of completeness, but it would empower the Dominion Government to approve, for the purpose of making a grant, provincial schemes although they did not comply with the Draft Bill in all respects.

The amounts of the grants would depend on the relative fiscal resources of the Dominion and the provinces at the time when legislation is put into force. The proposed Dominion Health Insurance grant for provincial schemes would be a fixed sum per head of population. The Dominion Public Health grants proposed are a supplement to the cost incurred by the province for each service. These grants are proposed to be made to the provinces for the following health services:—

Health Insurance.—To assist the provinces in providing health insurance benefits.

Tuberculosis and Mental Diseases.—To help provide free treatment for all persons suffering from tuberculosis or from mental diseases and includes the provision of additional buildings and bed accommodation.

General Public Health.—To assist the provinces in establishing and maintaining public health services commensurate with the needs of their people.

Veneral Disease.—To aid in providing preventive and free treatment and to provide free diagnostic and treatment clinics.

Professional Training.—To afford financial assistance to doctors, sanitary engineers and others who wish to take university courses leading to degrees in public health.

Investigatory Work.—To enable the provinces to carry out special investigations concerning public health or public-health measures.

Crippled Children.—To enable the provinces to establish and to conduct programs for the prevention of physical defects in children.

The fundamental and primary object of the Plan is the integration of public health and medical care for the purpose of raising and maintaining the standard of health of the people of Canada.

The provisions of the Draft Bill include compulsory and contributory insurance for all persons resident in Canada on the assumption, of course, that each province agrees to come into the scheme.

The Draft Bill does not prescribe the rate of the actuarial premium, since it is not likely that the same rate will be appropriate for all the provinces but it does provide that the premium shall be uniform for all adults in a province, and that there shall be lower rates for persons between 17 and 20 years of age and still lower rates for employed children.

* This summary outlines the situation as at the end of 1943; since that time modified proposals have been advanced: these, however, cannot be considered as final and, therefore, further developments will be dealt with in the 1945 Year Book.

† Report of the Advisory Committee on Health Insurance, King's Printer, Ottawa, 1943, Price \$1.50.