

The greater homogeneity of the population of the United Kingdom as well as the differences in economic conditions and social attitudes are perhaps reflected in the proposed *uniform* benefits as contrasted with the graduated scales of benefit which, generally speaking, the United States proposals advocate and in the diverse nature of the National Resources Planning Board proposals.

The Current Program of Dominion Government Legislation in Regard to Social Welfare.—The Government in the Speech from the Throne delivered on the opening of the 5th Session of the 19th Parliament on Jan. 27, 1944, advanced specific proposals that would be implemented in the legislative programs concerned with welfare projects. These were as follows:—

(1) The establishment of a new Ministry of Social Welfare to administer the Government's present and future programs of social betterment.

(2) The granting of family allowances designed to equalize in some measure the social position of salary- and wage-earners with families, compared with others without similar obligations.

(3) A National Health Insurance Scheme.

(4) Increases in Old Age Pensions.

Before these measures can take their place in the Statute Books, Bills must be framed, terms dictated and the necessary final drafts sponsored through the various stages of parliamentary procedure.

Subsequent editions of the Year Book will cover the progress made in these directions.

Essential as social security measures are in preparation for post-war organization, it is being increasingly recognized that they are only one phase of such planning. By guaranteeing the people a basic subsistence level, they give the economic system an opportunity to maintain a high rate of employment, production and distribution and permit the standard of living to rise perhaps to heights beyond anything yet attained but which the war years have indicated to be well within reach. The first postulate is to maintain and if possible increase the goods and services that are available for distribution. The best social insurance measures will be worthless if they undermine the incentive to production and thereby result in a cumulative reduction of the national income. The positive phase of post-war planning, then, is to organize the national economy for nearly complete employment of human and material resources. If and when this is accomplished, social security measures will occupy an important but secondary place and will work hand in glove with economic planning generally.