

## Social Security

The Government, in the White Paper on *Employment and Income* (referred to at p. xxix) and in its proposals to the Dominion-Provincial Conference on Reconstruction, gave support to a broadly based development of additional social security measures for humanitarian reasons and as a contribution to economic stability through maintenance of production, income and employment and the equitable distribution of purchasing power.

Three important steps were taken to extend social security measures during the war years. These were: the establishment of Unemployment Insurance and a National Employment Service in 1941; a National Physical Fitness Program in 1943; and Family Allowances in 1944.

In 1945 the Government put forward proposals that included a program for veterans' rehabilitation, national health grants and health insurance, unemployment assistance, assistance to the aged, and housing. Owing to the failure of the Federal and Provincial Governments to reach agreement, the social security measures have been implemented in part only.

All these matters are developed in detail in the Health and Welfare Chapters of this and previous editions of the Year Book. Veterans' rehabilitation, an exclusively Federal responsibility, is dealt with in Chapter XXIX.

In 1948 the Dominion laid its proposal for health grants before Parliament, and it was subsequently accepted by all the provinces. Under this scheme the Federal Government makes grants to the provinces for a health survey, general public health, tuberculosis control, mental health care, venereal disease control, crippled children care, cancer control, training of professional workers, public health research and hospital construction. In each case, provincial authorities are required to make a contribution.

The Government proposal with respect to unemployment assistance was that the Federal Government should take over responsibility for all employable unemployed by means of unemployment insurance where possible and otherwise by special unemployment assistance, while provincial and municipal authorities should care for unemployables and residual groups. Additionally, it was proposed that the facilities of the Employment Service be extended and that employers be required to report vacancies, engagements and separations to the Service; and that vocational guidance be provided, the farm labour placement program continued, occupational rehabilitation developed, and vocational training extended on a joint Dominion-provincial basis. The latter proposals have all been implemented or started. The proposals that the Federal Government take over responsibility for employables and the provinces for unemployables has not been settled. However, the Government has continued to bring more workers within the scope of unemployment insurance, as, for example, inland and ocean seamen, stevedores and monthly-rated employees earning up to \$3,120 a year against \$2,400 previously. Provision has also been made for a wider interpretation of a "dependent" for unemployment insurance purposes, permissible supplementary earnings have been increased from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per day, increased benefits provided, and contribution rates revised.