
A Federal Government proposal that it assume exclusive jurisdiction over the provision of old-age pensions for persons over 70 without a means test, and share with the provinces the cost of caring for the needy of between 65 and 70 years of age is also in abeyance. However, in 1947 the Government assumed three-quarters of the cost of old-age and blind pensions up to \$30 a month, an increase over the previous basic pension rate of \$5 per month. At the same time the aggregate permissible annual income from pensions and other sources was increased and is now \$600 for single persons and \$1,200 for married persons (see pp. 258-259).

Finally, a proposal that co-ordinated action be taken on a housing program, including community planning, uniform building by-laws, low-rent housing projects, and slum clearance has yet to be implemented. Under the National Housing Act, 1944, the Government had made unilateral provision covering these points. In the absence of agreement, the basic provisions of the legislation have been allowed to stand. Partly as a result of the serious housing shortage that has existed and partly because of the terms under which house building can be undertaken as a result of the financial provisions of the Act, Canada has had the largest housing program in its history.* In fact, a larger proportion of total investment has gone into house building than into manufacturing, the utility industries, or the primary industries. More than 210,000 housing units and 18,000 conversions have been completed in the three years 1946-48. (See Chapter XVII for details.)

* *Housing in Canada*, a quarterly publication of the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Ottawa, provides current information on the progress of the Canadian housing program.
