

\$1,000,000 on its public health and welfare programs. By 1949, health, welfare and income maintenance expenditures had risen to over \$900,000,000 while the population of 13,549,000 had only slightly more than trebled.

Of the expenditure on health, welfare and income maintenance programs by Federal and Provincial Governments and local administrations, almost 80 p.c. of the cost is being borne by the Federal Government. Although Federal expenditures on these social services have been relatively large, the bulk of Federal outlays has been for cash benefit programs, the more costly type of social security measure, as opposed to health and welfare services.

Provincial and municipal governments, while carrying proportionately less of the load of income maintenance programs, are playing an increasingly greater role in the provision of services, whether they be the impersonal environmental services such as sanitation or personal services such as the care and protection of children.

The public programs have been assisted and supplemented by the work of voluntary health and welfare agencies. The growth in professional education and number of trained health and welfare workers, and the development after the First World War of community chests and welfare councils, have strengthened voluntary services both in quality and in extent of coverage.

English poor law provisions were transplanted to most colonial areas in British North America leaving the main responsibility for the relief of the needy with local governments. Lack of local government organization and geographic factors in Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island made for centralized administration of relief in these two provinces while in Quebec the poor law approach failed to gain acceptance initially because of the strength of church charity.

With the mass unemployment of the 1930's and the need for relief on a broad scale, municipalities were financially unable to cope with the problem. The Federal and Provincial Governments extended financial aid in the form of grants both for direct relief and for public works. However, at the beginning of the Second World War the Federal Government withdrew its support from unemployment relief programs and similar action was followed by most provinces leaving the full responsibility for unemployment assistance to local governments. However, in two provinces, British Columbia and Ontario, substantial provincial grants toward local relief of 'unemployables' and their dependants are made while in Saskatchewan grants are made for both employables and unemployables and their dependants. In Quebec, the Public Charities Act enables the Provincial Government, the municipalities and private charity to share the costs of general assistance programs under the administration of the private agency.

During the War and immediate post-war period, the high level of employment minimized the amount and the duration of unemployment of able-bodied persons. Further, the coming into operation of Federal Unemployment Insurance in 1941, with a coverage of upwards of 3,000,000 workers, has provided a measure of protection for a large sector of the labour force. The National Employment Service, established in 1940, has provided a useful agency for the more effective utilization of manpower resources. Of fundamental importance for the future, particularly in the event of recession, is the attitude of Federal and Provincial Governments towards unemployment assistance and the Federal Government's fiscal policy and public investment program.