

fields, led in 1940 to the constitutional amendment of the British North America Act which made it possible for the Federal Government to enact unemployment insurance legislation. The Unemployment Insurance Act of 1940 was the first in a series of steps taken by which the Federal Government has been committed to a continuing responsibility for a number of major programs in the public welfare and social security fields. Provincial expenditures for health services, however, continue to exceed those of the Federal Government despite the increased federal commitments under the National Health Grants commencing in 1948.

Responding to the development of public opinion in favour of a larger measure of social security, the Federal Government has assumed direct administrative as well as financial responsibility for specific social security programs. One example of this was, of course, unemployment insurance, already mentioned, but more significant still was the enactment of the Family Allowances Act of 1944 whereby the Federal Government entered the social security field on a large scale. Under this Act, monthly allowances are paid for 4,500,000 children under 16 years of age at a yearly cost now running in excess of \$330,000,000. By this Act, and by the establishment at the same session of Parliament of a Department of National Health and Welfare, the Federal Government made it clear that it was prepared to accept a continuing responsibility for developing and carrying out a health, social security and social welfare policy on broad lines for the benefit and protection of the Canadian people.*

Through the establishment, both on provincial and on federal levels, of organized departments of public welfare, the machinery now exists for co-operative and integrated planning of national and provincial social welfare services. While the outlines are not yet clear as to the respective roles of the provincial governments and the Federal Government, the creation of these departments has combined to give the development of public social services a tremendous impetus during the past decade.

Current Social Security Program.—Through the enactment of unemployment insurance in 1940, the passage of the Family Allowances Act of 1944, the creation of the Department of National Health and Welfare in the same year, the passage of improved and extended veterans legislation during the later war and the post-war years, the inauguration of the national health program in 1948, and finally through the enactment in 1951 of the Old Age Security Act, the Old Age Assistance Act and the Blind Persons Act, the Federal Government has established on the national level the broad framework of a social security program which, while yet incomplete, has the elements of an organized and planned social security development.

While municipal and provincial governments still carry heavy responsibilities in the public welfare field, the administrative and financial responsibilities assumed by the federal authority have greatly outstripped these in the past few years. Further information is provided in the Sections that follow concerning the various activities and programs.

Expenditures on Health, Welfare and Social Security.—Governmental expenditures in the fields of health, welfare and social security are now larger than expenditures for any other peacetime purpose and rank second only to expenditures for national defence. While definitions may vary as to what should or should

* The Department of National Health and Welfare Act (8 Geo. VI, c. 22, Sect. 5) states, in part: "The duties, powers and functions of the Minister shall extend to and include all matters relating to the promotion or preservation of the health, social security and social welfare of the people of Canada over which the Parliament of Canada has jurisdiction".