

war and reconstituted by P.C. 608, of 1943, copy of which is tabled as Appendix 21.

On September 25, 1943, the General Advisory Committee on Demobilization and Rehabilitation also presented to the cabinet committee a comprehensive report reviewing its activities up to that date, a copy of which is tabled as Appendix 22.

Another important event in connection with our post-war planning to develop in Canada a social and economic system worthy of a people who have sacrificed so greatly in the cause of democracy and freedom was the appointment at the 1943 session of a select committee of the House of Commons to examine into the subject of a national plan of social insurance.

I table as Appendix 23 a copy of the Prime Minister's resolution of March 3rd calling for the appointment of this committee.

A great deal of preparatory work has been carried out departmentally on this subject and the results of that work were presented at the committee at the commencement of its proceedings in the form of two comprehensive documents which I again present to this committee as part of the record with respect to post-war planning in the field of reconstruction and rehabilitation.

The first of these is the report of the Advisory Committee on Health Insurance, which becomes Appendix 24.

As Appendix 25 I present the special social security report of the Advisory Committee on Reconstruction, arising out of the direction given to that committee on March 22, 1941, a copy of which has already been tabled as Appendix 12.

The House of Commons Committee on Social Security of 1943 recommended immediate action upon one aspect of the Health Program, as a result of which the National Physical Fitness Act, Chapter 29 of 1943, was enacted. A copy is tabled as Appendix 26.

On the broader subjects referred to it, the committee's observations are found in its fourth report, dated July 23, 1943, a copy of which is presented herewith as Appendix 27.

Before passing on to the developments in 1944, I should table P.C. 18/5610, Appendix 28. By this measure, the 1939 order in council protecting the reinstatement rights of civil servants joining the forces was amplified and clarified. An excellent digest of this order in council appears at page 261 of the Reference Manual.

During 1943, the Sub-committee on Demobilization of the General Advisory Committee made an intensive study of demobilization procedure and, on December 3rd, held a joint meeting with the Advisory Committee on Economic Policy at which the two committees agreed on a report on this subject for the guidance of the various government departments concerned. Although subsequent events led to certain departures from this joint recommendation, the report may constitute a basis for any investigation which this committee sees fit to make into that subject. Accordingly, a copy of the report of the joint meeting is tabled as Appendix 29.

During the session of 1943, parliament approved an entirely new measure in the interest of the widows of deceased members of the forces. An appropriation was passed for the payment of compassionate allowances to the widows of certain veterans coming within the definition of "veteran" in the War Veterans' Allowance Act under circumstances and terms to be prescribed by the Governor-General in Council. The regulations were adopted by P.C. 101/6395 of August 13th, 1943, a copy of which will be given to this committee later on when we are dealing with amendments to the War Veterans' Allowance Act.

This appropriation and order in council authorized the payment by the War Veterans' Allowance Board of allowances of \$30 a month to widows of veterans who had been pensioned or who had served in a theatre of war. The rates of allowances were similar to those paid to veterans under the Act.