

to regular civilian occupations. Employment is higher than it has ever been. It is over thirty per cent higher than it was in 1939. During 1946 Canada's external commerce reached heights unprecedented in peace time. The national income is at its highest peacetime level. The outlook for trade and employment for 1947 is most favourable.

Despite the high volume of output in all the primary industries, the demand for the natural products of the farms, the fisheries, the mines and the forests continues to exceed production. Through marketing agreements, the government is seeking to give security and continuing stability to the incomes of primary producers.

Many of the controls and restrictions in force during and immediately after the war are no longer in existence. Others have been considerably relaxed. Controls over wages and salaries and over many prices and commodities have been removed. Other controls are being removed in an orderly manner.

The policy of the government is to maintain only such price and commodity controls as may be required to protect consumers from a sudden and drastic rise in the cost of living, and to ensure the fair distribution of essential goods and services which are in short supply. You will be invited to consider what measures may be necessary to continue this policy after the expiry of the National Emergency Transitional Powers Act. Where it may appear advisable to continue these or other transitional measures, the required legislation will be submitted for your approval at the earliest possible date.

Where measures enacted under war-time powers may be required for a considerable period, bills necessary to give statutory form to their provisions will be introduced without delay. This procedure will bring under your review a number of measures relating, among other matters, to labour relations, agriculture, marketing, immigration, defence, finance and export trade.

Progress is being made in overcoming the shortages in building supplies, thereby accelerating the provision of additional housing. Despite all obstacles, the number of housing units completed in 1946 approximated the objective set by the government. The cooperation of provincial and municipal authorities greatly contributed to the provision of emergency shelter.

Since the last session of parliament, negotiations for tax agreements have been carried on with certain of the provinces. In the course of these negotiations, modifications were made in the dominion proposals to meet problems of individual provinces, and to ensure comparable treatment for all.

Tax agreements have now been reached with several of the provinces. The government is prepared to conclude agreements on a similar basis with the remaining provinces. You will be asked to approve such tax agreements as may be concluded.

Once suitable financial relationships have been arrived at with the provinces, my ministers have undertaken to seek, in a general conference or otherwise, to work out satisfactory arrangements with the provinces in regard to public investment and social security measures. Amendments to the Old Age Pensions Act will be introduced at the present session.

You will be invited to consider a measure to provide for the readjustment of representation in the House of Commons, in accordance

with the provisions of the recent amendment to the British North America Act. Amendments to the Dominion Elections Act will also be submitted for your consideration.

In the course of the session, additional measures will be submitted for your approval.

Members of the House of Commons:

The public accounts for the last fiscal year and the estimates for the coming year will be laid before you. The estimates will disclose substantial and gratifying reductions in public expenditures.

You will be asked to make financial provision for all essential services.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

May Divine Providence bless your deliberations and guide the nations in their efforts to establish a just and lasting peace.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING
(Prime Minister) moved:

That the speech of His Excellency the Governor General to both houses of parliament be taken into consideration on Friday next, and that this order have precedence over all other business except the introduction of bills and government notices of motions until disposed of.

He said: Perhaps the house would allow me to say a word with regard to this motion. It is the customary motion at the beginning of a session, but I wish to say at once that at the end of next week it is my intention to introduce another motion to enable the house to proceed with business other than that of the speech from the throne, provided that the debate on the speech from the throne is not concluded by the end of next week. That motion will be:

That on and after Monday, the 10th of February, and every sitting day thereafter until Monday the 24th of February, government orders may be introduced and considered notwithstanding the resolution passed on the 30th of January in relation to the precedence given to the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne.

I may say to hon. members that on Tuesday of this week I had a conference with my hon. friend the leader of the opposition (Mr. Bracken) and the leaders of the other parties in the house to discuss procedure with a view to expediting as much as possible the business of the session and getting down to business at as early a time in the session as may be possible.

I would say in the presence of the hon. gentleman to whom I have just referred that we were agreed it would perhaps suit the convenience of all hon. members were the procedure that I have just indicated to be followed, namely that all of next week be given to the debate on the address, if that length of time is desired, and if the debate is not concluded at that time the government would then introduce and proceed with a