

A joint committee of both houses of parliament has examined carefully the whole question of security for the aged with a view to providing an essential background of informed opinion in advance of the forthcoming general conference of the federal and provincial governments.

During the session agreements were concluded with several of the provincial governments to implement the legislation with respect to housing and also the legislation with respect to a trans-continental highway enacted at the last session.

The Niagara Diversion Treaty between Canada and the United States to provide for the permanent regulation of the diversion of water from the Niagara River for hydro-electric power has been approved and it is the hope of the government that, in the interests of both countries, it will receive the early approval of the Senate of the United States.

A uniform and systematic procedure has been provided for the publication and tabling in parliament of regulations and orders made by the Governor in Council or ministers or other agents of the Crown in the exercise of powers conferred by statute. You have also approved a measure to enable corporate Crown agencies to sue and to be sued in the ordinary courts.

The consideration of the measure to revise the Indian Act has not been completed. This measure will be re-introduced at your next session. In the meantime, among other amendments to the Dominion Elections Act, 1938, provision has been made to extend the rights of Indians to vote in federal elections.

During the session measures have been enacted respecting the National Research Council; prize money; the inclusion of veterans of British and Allied Forces within the scope of the War Veterans Allowance Act; Prairie farm assistance; and the National Film Board.

Bills have also been passed to amend the Canadian Citizenship Act; the Customs Act; the Income Tax Act; the Excise Tax Act; the Tariff Board Act; the Judges Act; the Trust Companies Act; the Loan Companies Act; the Foreign Insurance Companies Act, 1932; the Canadian and British Insurance Companies Act, 1932; the Railway Act; the Canada Shipping Act, 1934; the Aeronautics Act; the National Parks Act; the Northwest Territories Power Commission Act; the Official Secrets Act; and the Criminal Code.

The Transitional Measures Act has been extended to provide for the orderly decontrol of rents.

The spontaneous and tangible expressions of sympathy for the victims of the Manitoba floods and the fires at Rimouski and Cabano have been a gratifying demonstration of national unity. My ministers felt they were acting with the unanimous approval of our people in providing immediate assistance in fighting the floods and fires and in applying to the disasters of 1950 the principles and considerations applied in the Fraser River Valley flood of 1948. As on that occasion the work of the armed forces was most effective. Joint federal-provincial commissions of investigation were appointed, and as soon as they could report, an announcement was made of substantial national financial assistance for rehabilitation and reconstruction of the devastated areas.

The Canadian section of the International Joint Commission has been requested to expedite the investigation into measures required for the future control of the Red River.

The Greater Winnipeg Dyking Board, appointed jointly by the federal and provincial governments, is proceeding with the work of providing flood protection for the Winnipeg area.

The Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration has been instructed to complete the compilation of data, much of which has already been gathered, with respect to flood control in the Assiniboine River.

The splendid manner in which our people met these disasters, the efforts and endurance of those who fought the flood and the fires, and the response from all parts of Canada and abroad to appeals for assistance have provided heart-warming evidence of the feeling of common humanity which exists in many other countries as well as our own.

Members of the House of Commons:

I thank you for the provision you have made for all essential services for the current fiscal year.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

As you return to your homes, I express the hope that Divine Providence will continue to bless our people with peace, prosperity and happiness.