

The basic standard of living of the Canadian people and the purchasing power of the dollar have continued to be successfully protected by the price ceiling and other policies of the Government designed to prevent inflation. The value of these policies will be more apparent than ever in meeting post-war problems.

As a further safeguard of a basic standard of living, provision was made at the present session for floors under the prices of farm and fish products. These measures insure two great primary industries against the hazard of a collapse of markets or prices after the war.

To advise and assist the Government in the regulation and development of civil aviation, an Air Transport Board has been established. Under the Government's policy regarding post-war civil aviation, of which you have been informed, international and transcontinental services are reserved for public development; local services may be developed by private enterprise.

In April and May, a meeting of Prime Ministers of the British Commonwealth was held in London. My Prime Minister participated in its proceedings and, while in London, addressed a meeting of the members of both Houses of the Parliament of the United Kingdom.

In September, for the second time during the present war, the Government was host to the Prime Minister of Great Britain and the President of the United States and their advisers, at a conference held at Quebec.

In the same month a meeting of the Council of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration was held at Montreal. During the year, Canada was also represented at the International Monetary Conference at Bretton Woods and at the International Conference on Civil Aviation at Chicago. There were continuous conferences on a variety of subjects between my ministers and the governments of the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Sixth and Seventh Victory Loans, held during the year, substantially exceeded their objectives. In each loan, the number of individual subscribers established a new record. You will be gratified by this unparalleled response, and will desire me to record your appreciation

of the splendid services of the National War Finance Committee and its provincial and local organizations.

During the past year, relations between employers and employees have been increasingly harmonious. A larger number of workers have been employed throughout the year than ever before. The production of food-stuffs and of the raw materials and finished munitions of war exceeded production in any previous year.

Too high a tribute cannot be paid to the unselfish devotion to wartime duties of the vast majority of our people in all walks of life. In addition to their daily tasks, hundreds of thousands have given freely of their time and energies to indispensable voluntary activities. By their efforts at home, the men and women of Canada have demonstrated their eagerness to support to the utmost the fighting forces overseas.

Members of the House of Commons:

I thank you for the financial appropriations for the prosecution of the war.

The provision you have made for the exercise of the franchise in a general election by the men and women in the armed forces will afford them the widest opportunity to exercise this fundamental right of citizenship.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

Canada's war effort over the past five years speaks for itself.

As I bring to a close this fifth session of our war Parliament, I join with you in a prayer for a speedy end to the horrors and sacrifices of war. In God's keeping, we leave our heroic dead. We shall ever honour their memory. For the bereaved, we ask comfort and consolation. For the prisoners of war, the missing and the wounded, we pray for an early release from their privations, anxieties and sufferings. More than ever our thoughts are of the hundreds of thousands of our young Canadians, who, with their comrades-in-arms from other lands, have offered their lives to save from conquest and servitude the free nations of the world. We humbly pray that Divine Providence may grant to all who survive the ordeal of battle an early and triumphant return to their homeland.