

subcommittee included in its membership, not only able and experienced civil servants, but several gentlemen from private life who had wide experience in connection with farming and settlement matters. They made an exhaustive study of the problem for a period of many months and eventually in their report laid down what have become the basic principles of the Act.

Their fundamental assumption was that a farmer could not expect to succeed if he were obliged to assume as a debt the whole cost of his property, his stock and his equipment. They advanced the propositions that numbers of members of the forces were experienced in farming and wished to return thereto, and that secondary industry could not be relied upon for permanent post-war employment for all members of the military forces in addition to those engaged in industry prior to and during the war. They pointed out that the state had had to absorb a substantial portion of the cost of soldier settlement under the former Act and recommended that this cost be assumed from the outset in the new scheme.

I table their report as Appendix 38 and you will find that its principles were followed very closely in the Act which is before you.

At the same session of 1942, the House appointed another special committee whose work is of interest to us here. This was the committee on Reconstruction and Re-establishment. I table as Appendix 15 a copy of my resolution of March 24th calling for the appointment of the committee and as Appendix 16 a copy of the third report, of the committee, July 20th, containing its substantive recommendation.

During 1942 a further class of persons rendering important war services was brought under the Pension Act by P.C. 100/2757 of April 4. These were the members of the newly formed Corps of (Civilian) Canadian Firefighters.

In the budget of 1942, by which time our war taxation had reached a very high figure, specific provision was made to exempt war pensions from taxation. 1943.

The House of Commons Committee on Reconstruction and Re-establishment was reconstituted in 1943 and presented two comprehensive reports. I table as Appendix 17 my resolution of February 24th calling for the appointment of the committee; as Appendix 18 the second report of the committee dated June 23rd; and as Appendix 19 the fourth report dated January 26, 1944.

The Advisory Committee on Reconstruction, presided over by Principal James, also presented its main report to the government on September 24, 1943, and I table a copy as Appendix 20 together with a series of reports from its principal subcommittees. The report on agricultural policy, dated December 26, 1943, is tabled herewith as Appendix 20; the report of the subcommittee on Conservation and Development of Natural Resources, dated September 24th, 1943, is Appendix 20B; the report of the subcommittee on Publicly Financed Construction Projects is tabled as Appendix 20C. The monumental report on housing and community planning, dated March 24, 1944, appears as Appendix 20D; and the report of the subcommittee on Post-War Employment Opportunities dated September 24, 1943, is tabled as Appendix 20E. The report of the subcommittee on the Post War Problems of Women is Appendix 20F.

The publication of these various reports had a profound effect in stimulating public interest in the post-war economic problems with which the country is today confronted. The painstaking and exhaustive fact-finding studies conducted under the direction of the Reconstruction Committee gave to the government and to the country an invaluable guide to straight thinking on this vast and intricate problem.

With the publication of these reports, the Advisory Committee on Reconstruction disbanded and further studies in that field became the responsibility of the Advisory Committee on Economic Policy originally set up early in the