

*Governor General's Speech*

in check. To this end, a most important step was the restoration of exchange parity with the United States dollar.

The conversion of our war industries to peacetime production has been achieved more smoothly and speedily and with less dislocation than might have been expected. Opportunities for employment have been maintained at a high level and the transfer to civilian occupations of displaced war workers and demobilized veterans is being accomplished swiftly and effectively.

In recent weeks essential production has been slowed down, and the dangers of inflation increased, by stoppages of work in certain key industries. My ministers endorse the view of the standing committee on industrial relations that continued price control is only possible with a reasonable measure of wage control. The government is firmly convinced that the exercise of moderation and restraint by all parties is essential to the satisfactory adjustment of labour disputes and the maintenance of the high level of production without which there cannot be ample opportunities for employment.

The repatriation of the armed forces is now virtually completed. It is anticipated that the wives and children of veterans will almost all have been brought to Canada by the close of the present year. The demobilization of the wartime army, navy and air force is likewise practically accomplished. Foundations have been laid for the permanent peace-time defence forces.

A series of measures relating to war veterans has been enacted, with the object of making provision for the veterans, and for the dependents of the fallen, worthy of the service and sacrifice of Canada's armed forces.

In Canada, as in other countries, the housing shortage has grown more acute since the end of the war, despite the provision of a large supply of new housing. In order to increase the efficiency of governmental action, the responsibility for housing has been largely concentrated in one minister of the crown. The National Housing Act has been amended to expand facilities for the provision of housing.

The British North America Act has been amended by the United Kingdom parliament in accordance with the request contained in a joint address adopted by both houses of parliament. The amendment will have the effect of maintaining more effectively the historic principle of representation by population, in the representation of the people in the House of Commons.

You have enacted a measure to clarify and define Canadian citizenship and to make it the

distinctive status of the people of this country. The Immigration Act has also been amended to bring it into conformity with the revised definition of Canadian citizenship.

Other bills enacted include measures respecting the armed forces, the development and control of atomic energy, the National Research Council, the Department of External Affairs, the operation of crown companies, the Exchequer Court, the remuneration of judges, the investigation of combines, foreign exchange control, unemployment insurance, war crimes and the Federal District Commission.

The dominion-provincial conference resumed its meetings on April 25, and adjourned on May 3. The conference not having reached unanimous agreement, proposals in respect to taxation were subsequently made which could be accepted by the provinces individually. These proposals have been accepted in principle by three provincial governments. Preliminary discussions are under way with certain other provinces. It is hoped that ultimately general agreement embracing all the provinces may be concluded.

Your approval has been given to the membership of Canada in the world health organization and in the united nations educational, scientific and cultural organization. Canada has continued to give the utmost support to the various agencies of the united nations.

Early in the session, the Prime Minister visited the United Kingdom to join in consultations on matters of common concern with the Prime Ministers or their representatives of other nations of the British commonwealth.

Canada is represented at the conference convoked to consider the treaties of peace with Italy and the axis satellites of southern and eastern Europe which opened its proceedings in Paris on July 29, by a delegation presided over, at the outset, by the Prime Minister.

Members of the House of Commons:

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

The further measures of relief from the wartime burden of taxation to be effected at the beginning of the new year will be cordially welcomed.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

May Divine Providence bless your deliberations and guide the nations in the establishment of a just and durable peace.

This concluded the second session of the twentieth parliament.