

other nations of the British Commonwealth. Since that time, preliminary conferences of the greater powers, on the establishment of an international security organization, have been held at Dumbarton Oaks. In anticipation of a general conference, Canada's views respecting some aspects of the proposals of the preliminary conferences have since been communicated to these powers.

World security is the basis of lasting prosperity and of social security. Prosperity, like security, cannot be the possession of any nation in isolation. Prosperity, likewise, demands international co-operation. Canada's prosperity and the well-being of our people are bound up with the restoration and expansion of world trade. To the efficient employment of vast numbers of Canadians, export markets are essential. Similarly, to raise the standard of living, larger imports are needed. In this belief the government has continued, in accordance with the principles of the Atlantic Charter, to explore with other countries the means by which, after the war, international trade may be revived and developed.

The vital importance of exports in maintaining employment was recognized in legislation, which has since been brought into effect, to provide for the insurance and guarantee of export credits. Provision was also made for the expansion abroad of the trade commissioner service of Canada.

During the session, all customs duties on farm implements were removed, thereby helping to keep down farm costs, with benefit alike to the producers and consumers of agricultural products. By this important measure, my ministers have also given concrete evidence of Canada's readiness, in association with other nations, to further international trade by the reduction of tariff barriers.

The assurance of opportunity of employment for all who are willing and able to work is the corner-stone of the government's programme to achieve prosperity and social security. There is a special responsibility to establish the men and women of our armed forces in useful and remunerative activities. The maintenance of a high level of employment and production after the war is the first essential of a policy which also aims at a rising level of human well-being. The many important measures enacted at the session now closing mark substantial progress towards the attainment of these goals. Practically all these measures are already in force. Viewed collectively, they form an impressive legislative achievement. In their comprehensiveness and interrelation, they constitute a major instalment of a programme to prevent the possible recurrence of unemployment and insecurity in post-war years.

To further the government's policies of full employment, social security and human welfare, three new departments of government have been established, all of which are now under the direction of responsible ministers of the Crown:

1. The Department of Veterans Affairs;
2. The Department of Reconstruction; and
3. The Department of National Health and Welfare.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has charge of the rehabilitation and re-establishment of members of the armed forces, and of the administration of veterans' pensions and allowances.

The new department is already administering measures directly related to the re-establishment of veterans in civil life, the care of disabled veterans, and the provision for the dependents of those who have given their lives. The administrative machinery for this vast undertaking is being steadily developed and improved. Nearly 200,000 veterans of this war have already been re-established in civil life.