

developing. Spring grains still vary greatly in condition, and with acreage much reduced, production is expected to be considerably below normal.

Haying has commenced throughout Quebec but hot, humid weather is delaying operations. Favourable growing weather during the past two weeks has promoted good growth of grain crops and pastures, but continued hot weather is required by the cereals which are late. Some acreage in the upper St. Lawrence River counties remains unseeded as a result of the late spring.

In British Columbia, moisture supplies are generally satisfactory. A limited area of winter barley has been cut and yields are better than average. Picking of loganberries is well advanced and early varieties of plums and apples are now being harvested. In spite of heavy losses from splitting, shipments of cherries have exceeded early estimates.

The weather during the past two weeks has favoured all crops in the Maritime Provinces. Haying is now under way but humid weather in some areas had made curing difficult. Yields generally are good but not as heavy as expected because of a lack of clover. Grains, potatoes and root crops are all promising but the apple prospects in Nova Scotia are variable.

NEWFOUNDLAND DISCUSSIONS: Replying to a question by John Bracken, Progressive Conservative leader, in the House of Commons, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. St. Laurent, said there had been several meetings with the delegation from Newfoundland, and at the last general meeting of their delegation with Canadian representatives, several subcommittees were established to consider various aspects of the problems being explored.

Mr. St. Laurent added: All I can say is that on both sides there is evidence of the sincerest desire to get at all such facts as it would be important for the citizens of the two countries to consider in drawing their conclusions as to whether at this time it is possible to find a basis of closer union that would be of mutual advantage to the two countries. There is the sincerest desire on both sides to smooth out all suggestions of what at first might appear to be difficulties standing in the way. The matter has not progressed to a stage where anything definite can be stated about it, but it is further advanced than it was when this delegation came here, and the advance has been in the right direction. There are still very cordial and hopeful efforts being made on all sides to arrive at something that would appeal to the citizens of both countries.

FARM LIVING COSTS UP: Composite index number of prices of commodities and services used by farmers, on the base 1935-1939=100, including living costs, moved up 7.6 points to 148.5 between January and April, 1947, according to

the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This figure was 9.9 points above that of April a year ago and 11.6 points above that of August, 1945. Increases were recorded for equipment and materials, for farm living costs, and for farm wage rates.

April index of farm family living costs showed a further rise, standing at 136.1 compared with 132.2 in January, 126.1 in April 1946, and 99.5 in 1939. Tax and interest rates index, at 109.9, remained unchanged from April last year, but was 0.7 points lower than in August, 1945. Equipment and materials index stood at 138.5, compared with 130.4 in January, 128.3 in April last year, and 96.1 in 1939.

PARLIAMENT PROROGUED

SPEECH FROM THRONE: Mr. Justice Patrick Kerwin, Acting Administrator, formally prorogued Parliament early this morning. Royal Assent was given to about 300 public and private Bills.

Text of the Speech from the Throne, reviewing the work of session, follows:

Honorable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

The restoration of peace and world recovery have not proceeded as speedily as had been hoped for. Failure to conclude peace settlements with Germany and Austria has complicated the political and economic situation, not only in Europe, but throughout the world. Several countries, including Canada, have approved treaties of peace with Italy, Roumania, Hungary and Finland.

In Europe, the delay in the re-establishment of industries has continued to affect adversely the balance of foreign trade and of international payments. The severe winter and the shortage of necessities, particularly of food, have added to human suffering, and aggravated the problems of relief and rehabilitation.

Unsettled world conditions have been reflected in many of the measures you have been called upon to consider at the session now being concluded.

On June 30, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration came to an end. The need for relief, however, has not ended. In recognition of this need, Parliament has made a substantial appropriation for the purchase of food and other essentials of life required by peoples of war-devastated lands. Parliament has also approved Canadian membership in the International Refugee Organization.

PARTICIPATING FULLY

Canada is participating fully in the activities of the Economic and Social Council, the Atomic Energy Commission, and other agencies of the United Nations. Our country is also effectively represented at the International Conference on Trade and Employment at Geneva.

As a result of the deliberations of a special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, a committee, on which Canada

is represented, was created to prepare a report on Palestine.

An important feature of the session has been the removal, in an orderly manner, of the majority of controls and restrictions in force during and immediately after the war. To guard against sudden and excessive increases in the cost of living, and for other reasons, certain emergency orders and regulations have been continued for a further transitional period.

IMMIGRATION

Another important development has been the action taken to encourage immigration. The government's policy involves the careful selection of immigrants and adjustment of their numbers to the absorptive capacity of the country. Practical steps have also been taken to relieve the lot of many displaced persons and refugees.

Notwithstanding the unsettled conditions abroad, employment and national income at home have remained at high levels. The demand for the products of our primary industries has, in almost all cases, been sustained. Towards stabilizing the incomes of those engaged in agriculture, measures relating to the Canadian Wheat Board, and to the sale and export of certain other agricultural products have been enacted. The Fisheries Prices Support Act is being brought into operation. The maintenance of our prosperity will increasingly depend upon how conditions develop in other parts of the world.

In the past few months, in most industries, Canada has fortunately enjoyed a relatively wide measure of industrial peace. Preliminary consideration has been given in Parliament to an important measure to provide more effective machinery for the settlement of industrial disputes and the adjustment of differences between employers and employees. A similar measure will be introduced at the next session.

HOUSING

The government has continued to give constant attention to meeting the need for housing. To this end, substantial amendments have been made to The National Housing Act.

A further measure of social security has been provided by important amendments to the Old Age Pensions Act. Increases have been made in the amount of pension, and also in the amount of other income permitted to pensioners. In addition, the pensionable age for blind persons has been lowered from 40 to 21 years.

C. S. SUPERANNUATION

The Civil Service Superannuation Act has been amended to include additional categories of public servants, and to permit retirement at an earlier age than heretofore. Comprehensive changes have also been made to increase the security provided by the act. Statutory provision has been made for the veterans' preference in appointments to the Civil Service, and to permit of annual increases in remuneration to temporary employees.

Steady progress has been made in placing the defence forces on a peace-time basis. The Department of National Defence Act has been amended to provide for the consolidation of the administration of the Department and for the establishment of a defence research board.

During the session, an important announcement of joint Canada-United States policy respecting co-operation in defence was made at Washington by the President and at Ottawa by the Prime Minister.

Other important measures enacted during the session include bills concerning a Dominion Coal Board, a Maritime Commission, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, conservation of natural resources, loan adjustments with certain of the provinces, the Patent Act, penitentiaries and the Criminal Code. A benevolent fund for army canteen and other service funds has been established.

The representation of the people in the House of Commons has been readjusted on a basis which will more effectively maintain the historic principle of representation by population.

RIGHTS AND FREEDOM

The question of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the manner in which those obligations, accepted by all members of the United Nations, may best be implemented, has been given preliminary consideration by a special joint committee of the Senate and the House of Commons. It is the intention of my ministers to recommend the re-appointment of this committee at the next session of parliament.

Members of the House of Commons:

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

A most gratifying achievement of the session now concluding has been the substantial reduction in the level of taxation on personal incomes, which became effective on the first of July, and which was made possible by the drastic reduction of public expenditures. At the end of the year, the tax on excess profits will be removed.

Authority to conclude tax agreements with the provinces has been vested in the government. Seven of the nine provinces have signified their intention to conclude such agreements.

A bill to revise the income tax law was introduced in order to permit of study and consideration of its provisions between now and the next session.

Honorable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

The recent visit of the President of the United States to Ottawa was deeply appreciated by the citizens of Canada. The visit afforded renewed evidence of the close and cordial relations of our two countries.

My ministers have been pleased to welcome a delegation from the national convention of Newfoundland. Members of the delegation are exploring the possibility of finding a basis, which would be mutually acceptable, for the