

Other policies worked with these controls to cause virtual disappearance of the passenger car for civilian use. The regulations were eased in 1946, revoked in 1947.

The second experience with Canada-wide controls came in 1950-52 under the Consumer Credit (Temporary Provisions) Act. There was concern then about inflation due to the Korean war. In 1951 the minimum down-payment on cars was 50 per cent, and maximum repayment period 12 months. During that year consumer credit actually declined. Since May, 1952 there has been no direct control of consumer credit throughout Canada.

In 1956 the Government was again seriously disturbed about inflation. At that time officials of the Bank of Canada met with representatives of instalment finance companies to try to get agreement on voluntary control of consumer credit, but the companies were not persuaded.

It should be mentioned here that in 1947, the year that the wartime regulations were abandoned, Quebec passed the Instalment Sales Act, apparently intended to continue control of instalment sales in the interests of consumers of modest means, a move that was said to have the full support of the Quebec business community. Generally speaking, the Act applies only to retail sales up to \$800; a wide range of goods, including motor cars, is excluded. But within these limits, the legislation is more comprehensive than that of either Saskatchewan or Alberta.

The Quebec legislation fixes a minimum down-payment of 15 per cent and a sliding scale of maximum maturity periods. Payments must be of equal amounts with the exception of a smaller one at the end, and the buyer has the right of prepayment. The maximum finance charge is three-quarters of 1 per cent per month. There is provision for compulsory disclosure of the regular cash price, the time price, the down payment, and the instalments. A statutory form of written contract is laid down.

New Brunswick followed the Quebec precedent in 1949. The New Brunswick Act also called for a 15 per cent down-payment and the maximum maturity period was 24 months. Motor cars were not excluded. These restrictions were difficult to administer, and in 1959 the Act was repealed.

#### DISCLOSURE

In 1954 Alberta passed the Credit and Loan Agreements Act with disclosure provisions similar to those already described in the Quebec Instalment Sales Act of 1947. The Alberta Act allows for disclosure of