

problem of unemployment and social services generally. The Government have not altered their view that a national unemployment insurance scheme is essential to a permanent policy of meeting the problem of unemployment.

My ministers recognize that the plight of those who are still unemployed cannot await necessary constitutional amendments, nor the summoning of any conferences. They are prepared, therefore, notwithstanding constitutional impediments to effective action, to join with the provinces in a further determined effort to meet the immediate situation.

To this end it is proposed further to expand the Government's long range program of public undertakings. In pursuance of the policy of the active encouragement of employment, it is also proposed to undertake, with provincial co-operation, to provide assistance to municipalities which, as an alternative to the provision of direct relief, desire to expand their normal programs of civic improvements.

As a means of providing an opportunity for useful work and national service to single unemployed men, the assistance given to forest conservation will be extended to include other work of national importance.

The beneficial results of the Youth Training program, have demonstrated the wisdom of this experiment, and a measure will be introduced to increase its efficiency and expand its usefulness.

Notwithstanding the embarrassments and handicaps encountered in coping with the problem of unemployment, it is gratifying to be able to record that, during the past year, there has been a material reduction in the number of those receiving agricultural aid, and a reduction also in the total number of those receiving public assistance due to unemployment and agricultural distress. At the beginning of the present winter the number of those receiving such public assistance was almost forty per cent less than two years ago. Over the same period the number of persons actually in employment has largely increased.

Continuous improvement in the position of the fishing industry as a whole has been reflected in annual increases for the past few years in the aggregate amounts received by the fishermen from their work. The Department of Fisheries, have given, and will continue to give, increased attention to the problem of marketing. The Government have also assisted fishermen substantially through direct aid.

In order to avert economic disaster to a large part of our population, my Ministers, under the terms of the Wheat Board Act, approved, for the current crop year, an initial payment for wheat as recommended by the Board.

The Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Plan will be continued, the experience of the past year having demonstrated its efficacy in improving the agricultural areas of the West.

Bills will be introduced to regulate Grain Exchanges along the lines laid down in the Report of the Royal Commission on Grain Marketing, to revise the Canada Grain Act, and to assist further in the marketing of farm products.

The Trans-Canada Airways will shortly provide a passenger service, in addition to the air mail and air express services already in operation. Preparations for the inauguration of the Transatlantic Air Service are being actively continued in collaboration with the Governments of the United Kingdom and of Ireland.

In order to implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission to Investigate the Penal System of Canada, a Bill to appoint a commission to administer the penitentiaries will be again introduced.

Other legislative proposals will be laid before you and proceeded with as time and opportunity offer.

*Members of the House of Commons:*

The estimates for the Public Service, together with the Public Accounts, will be laid before you.