

of homes, they represent merely a down payment, and are an indication that many more millions of dollars of the veterans' own savings have been invested in Canadian homes and in Canadian business by the former members of our armed forces. They are today among our most substantial citizens.

Assistance has been rendered to another important group through the provisions of the Veterans' Land Act. The number who have been established on farms and small holdings under this act is approximately 23,000. Of these 11,663 have been established in full-time farming on properties purchased through the facilities of the act. Another 9,536 have been established on small holdings. Some 4,000 farmers have been assisted with loans on properties which they already owned and operated.

A few days ago another great stabilizing influence was brought into being with the proclamation of the Business and Professional Loans Act, which will enable thousands of veterans to obtain capital for the purpose of setting themselves up in business and in the various professions for which they are either qualified or have been trained under the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act.

It was gratifying to note in the Speech from the Throne that the process of industrial conversion, which in prospect seemed so formidable, has to a very large extent already been completed.

There is still, of course, an urgent need for new housing, as a result of the great shifts in population which took place during the war, and, let us not forget, due to the greatly increased spending power of the Canadian people. Last year 60,000 regular housing units were built, and another 3,000 or 4,000 emergency units were made available. This has made a marked improvement in the situation. These units will take care of approximately a quarter of a million people; and the prospective schedule for the coming year is for 80,000. The target for last year was 60,000, and 60,000 units were built; the target for this year is 80,000 units, and I have been assured by the minister that 80,000 will be built. This should go a long way to alleviate our housing problem.

The industrial plant which during the war was fostered and developed by Canadian enterprise, under the guidance and direction of the Minister of Reconstruction and Supply has, to a very large extent, been adapted to the production of the goods and supplies of which we all have been deprived during the long weary years of war.

The making good of deficiencies in our wardrobes, our houses, our household equipment, and the thousand and one items which have been in short supply during the war, has been an important contributing factor to the speed of industrial reconversion and the rapid absorption of our demobilized fighting forces. This back-log of unsatisfied demands is still a vital factor in our industrial life, but it is not a factor upon which we can rely to maintain for any great length of time the present high level of employment. Our hope for the future years depends upon the recovery of the devastated countries and the return of world trade on a vast scale. Canada is in a fortunate position with regard to her future aspirations in this regard.

The government is to be greatly commended for the research work that it has had carried on. During the war our scientists made great contributions to the prosecution of the war. Their efforts were particularly helpful in the fields of radar and the atomic bomb. The men working on these problems were mostly young men, and it augurs well for the future of our country that we have so many young men of such great capabilities. We do, of course, have to see that we keep these men in Canada, so that we have the benefit of their brains.

This research work did not stop with the war, and much is being done today to assist industry in its conversion from war to peace and in providing new products and new processes that will do much to enrich our country and enhance our standard of living. One branch of this research that is being actively carried on is that of atomic power, and I believe we will be proud of the fact that Canada is not behind the rest of the world in the development of atomic energy.

The assistance which this country extended to Britain, France, Russia, China, and our other allies under the heading of mutual aid, was laid before us the other day in the report of the Mutual Aid Board. The total amount of mutual aid furnished by Canada was shown to be approximately four billion dollars. This factor will build up good-will for Canada throughout the countries to which it was given.

At the end of the greatest and most destructive war the world has ever known, this young country can look back upon a truly amazing record of achievement. Not only did we raise a million fighting men, and out of our own resources arm and equip them to the point where they were regarded as about the best-equipped among the forces of the United Nations; but we went beyond that and through mutual aid to our allies contributed