

deficits in the national accounts. The outlook for agriculture in the West is more hopeful than it has been for some years.

An outstanding feature of the session has been the adoption of measures constituting a long-range nation-wide program of conservation and development, designed to stimulate employment and enlarge the national income. They include a comprehensive housing scheme, under which special assistance will be afforded in the construction of houses to be owned by families of limited means, and of housing accommodation in urban centres to be leased at less than economic rentals.

The Dominion has undertaken to pay a substantial proportion of municipal real estate taxes, over a three year period, on new houses erected before the end of 1940, and to make loans, at low interest rates, to municipalities to enable them to undertake projects of a self-liquidating character.

The housing program has been further aided, and increased activity in the construction industry fostered by the exemption from sales tax of materials entering into the construction of houses and other buildings.

Under the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act, further progress has been made, in the development and conservation of water supplies, and the formation of community pasture areas where lands are not suitable for cultivation.

Appropriations have been made for the continuation, on a broader scale, of the Youth Training Program, and for its extension to include persons of older age.

Provision has been made for the complete nationalization of the Bank of Canada through the acquisition by the government of the ownership, in its entirety, of the capital stock of the Bank.

The Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada has been superseded by a Board of Transport Commissioners, with authority in respect of transport by air and water, as well as by rail.

The trans-Canada air service is now operating a regular air mail schedule over a considerable area of the Dominion. It is expected that, at an early date, a coast to coast service will be in operation.

The provisions of the Criminal Code relating to the improper driving of motor vehicles have been made more stringent. Other important amendments have been adopted.

The War Veterans' Allowance Act has been amended to provide for veterans who, although not totally incapacitated, are incapable of maintaining themselves, and for those who served in South Africa and were domiciled in Canada at the time of their enlistment.

The registration of shop cards has been authorized, a measure which has been advocated for many years by labour unions in Canada.

The Special Committee of the House of Commons on Elections and Franchise Acts has given careful study to the means employed to effect redistribution in Canada and other countries, and to proposals with respect to political expenditures. A new Dominion Elections Act has been enacted.

Considerable progress has been made in the negotiations which, for several months past, have been carried on with the Government of the United States, with a view to revising and extending the Trade Agreement concluded in 1935. It is hoped the negotiations will result in a comprehensive Agreement, which will facilitate the further development of trade between the two countries.

*Members of the House of Commons:*

I thank you for the provision you have made for the public service.

*Honourable Members of the Senate:*

*Members of the House of Commons:*

In taking leave of you at this time, I pray that the blessing of Divine Providence may rest upon your labours.