

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.

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 forty to twenty-one years.

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 veteran's 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 cooperation 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 from 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.

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