

28. The Minister of Justice said that he had been in touch by telephone with the Attorneys-General of the provinces and it had been agreed that the Committee would meet in Ottawa on August 21st, 1950, and that the Constitutional Conference would re-convene in Quebec on September 11th, 1950. It would appear that the General Conference could hardly take place before October 15th, at the earliest.

29. The Cabinet, after discussion, noted with approval the report concerning plans and preparations for the Constitutional and General Conferences of the Federal and Provincial Governments.

Financial assistance to immigrants

30. The Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, referring to discussion at the meeting of May 18th, 1950, said that the Interdepartmental Committee on External Trade Policy had considered a number of proposals relating to financial assistance for immigrants. The Committee recommended that it would be desirable:

(a) to determine whether the U.K. Government and other European governments would be willing to raise the limit of transferable funds;

(b) to see whether a system could be established by which the Government could guarantee loans to be made by commercial banks to immigrants on the security of funds held by the immigrants in their countries of origin and made transferable over a period of time under agreements with the governments of such countries;

(c) to establish arrangements under which immigrants might "buy in" to social security programmes in Canada or, alternatively, to enter into reciprocal arrangements with other countries under which persons moving to Canada from them or from Canada to such countries would be received in good standing under social security provisions if they had rights to benefit in the country of origin; and,

(d) to investigate the possibility of having sharper reductions made in trans-Atlantic passenger fares during off-seasons.

The committee did not favour the advance of fares to female immigrants who would enter service as domestics. They were continuing to investigate the

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