

Where measures enacted under wartime powers may be required for a considerable period, bills necessary to give statutory form to their provisions will be introduced without delay. This procedure will bring under your review a number of measures relating, among other matters, to labour relations, agriculture, marketing, immigration, defence, finance and export trade.

Progress is being made in overcoming the shortages in building supplies, thereby accelerating the provision of additional housing. Despite all obstacles, the number of housing units completed in 1946 approximated the objective set by the government. The co-operation of provincial and municipal authorities greatly contributed to the provision of emergency shelter.

Since the last session of parliament, negotiations for tax agreements have been carried on with certain of the provinces. In the course of these negotiations, modifications were made in the Dominion proposals to meet problems of individual provinces, and to ensure comparable treatment for all.

Tax agreements have now been reached with several of the provinces. The government is prepared to conclude agreements on a similar basis with the remaining provinces. You will be asked to approve such tax agreements as may be concluded.

Once suitable financial relationships have been arrived at with the provinces, my Ministers have undertaken to seek in a general conference or otherwise, to work out satisfactory arrangements with the provinces in regard to public investment and social security measures. Amendments to the Old Age Pensions Act will be introduced at the present session.

You will be invited to consider a measure to provide for the readjustment of representation in the House of Commons, in accordance with the provisions of the recent amendment to the British North America Act. Amendments to the Dominion Elections Act will also be submitted for your consideration.

In the course of the session, additional measures will be submitted for your approval.

*Members of the House of Commons:*

The Public Accounts for the last fiscal year and the Estimates for the coming year will be laid before you. The estimates will disclose substantial and gratifying reductions in public expenditures.

You will be asked to make financial provision for all essential services.

*Honourable Members of the Senate:*

*Members of the House of Commons:*

May Divine Providence bless your deliberations and guide the nations in their efforts to establish a just and lasting peace.

The Commons withdrew.

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to retire.

The Senate was resumed.