

Canadian participation in the International Monetary Fund and the Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The provision of houses is being pressed forward as rapidly as the supply of materials and labour will permit. Plans already in operation provide for the expansion of home construction to keep pace with increases in the output of building supplies. Priority is being given to houses for war veterans and their dependents.

Plans for the establishment of a national minimum of social security and human welfare are being advanced as rapidly as possible. Unemployment insurance, floors under farm and fish prices, and family allowances are now in force. The government's proposals for the promotion of health and welfare made to the Dominion-Provincial Conference include plans for a nation-wide system of health insurance and preventive medicine, and for old age pensions on a more generous basis.

Other measures demanding your consideration will include a consolidation, as a Veterans' Charter, of the various orders-in-council relating to the care, rehabilitation and re-establishment of war veterans; a bill to repeal the act establishing the Department of National War Services; a bill to merge the Department of Munitions and Supply and the Department of Reconstruction into a single Department of Reconstruction and Supply. The army and the navy have already been placed under the jurisdiction of one Minister of National Defence. A further consolidation of all defence services under one Minister of the Crown will be made in due course.

*Members of the House of Commons:*

You will be asked to make financial provision for all essential services, also to meet expenditures arising out of the war, and for the purposes of reconstruction. My Ministers' proposals with respect to taxation measures will be disclosed in the budget.

*Honourable Members of the Senate:*

*Members of the House of Commons:*

My Ministers believe that the position attained by our country among the nations of the world, makes it desirable that Canada, like the other nations of the British Commonwealth, should possess a distinctive national flag. You will be asked to appoint a Select Committee of Members of both Houses of Parliament to consider a suitable design for a Canadian flag.

The government has directed that, pending approval by Parliament of a particular design, the Canadian Red Ensign which was the flag carried into battle by the Canadian army, and which was flown from the Peace Tower on V-E Day and V-J Day as a tribute to the valour of our armed forces and to Canada's achievements in war, may be displayed wherever place or occasion makes it desirable to fly a distinctive Canadian flag.

The government also considers that it is advisable to revise and clarify the definition of Canadian citizenship, and to bring the legislation respecting national status, naturalization and immigration into conformity with the definition of citizenship. You will be asked to approve the required measures.

The government has also been giving consideration to the most suitable manner in which to commemorate, in the Capital of Canada, the service and sacrifice of Canadians in the war just ended. In the past, the sacrifice of human life in war has most frequently been commemorated in monuments of bronze and stone. Such a memorial our Capital already has. My Ministers are of the opinion that something more expressive of the vision of a new world order