

As a means of providing an opportunity for useful work and national service to single unemployed men, the assistance given to forest conservation will be extended to include other work of national importance.

The beneficial results of the Youth Training programme have demonstrated the wisdom of this experiment, and a measure will be introduced to increase its efficiency and expand its usefulness.

Notwithstanding the embarrassments and handicaps encountered in coping with the problem of unemployment, it is gratifying to be able to record that, during the past year, there has been a material reduction in the number of those receiving agricultural aid, and a reduction also in the total number of those receiving public assistance due to unemployment and agricultural distress. At the beginning of the present winter the number of those receiving such public assistance was almost forty per cent less than two years ago. Over the same period the number of persons actually in employment has largely increased.

Continuous improvement in the position of the fishing industry as a whole has been reflected in annual increases for the past few years in the aggregate amounts received by the fishermen from their work. The Department of Fisheries have given, and will continue to give, increased attention to the problem of marketing. The Government have also assisted fishermen substantially through direct aid.

In order to avert economic disaster to a large part of our population, my Ministers, under the terms of the Wheat Board Act, approved, for the current crop year, an initial payment for wheat as recommended by the Board.

The Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Plan will be continued, the experience of the past year having demonstrated its efficacy in improving the agricultural areas of the West.

Bills will be introduced to regulate grain exchanges along the lines laid down in the Report of the Royal Commission on Grain Marketing, to revise the Canada Grain Act, and to assist further in the marketing of farm products.

The Trans-Canada Airways will shortly provide a passenger service, in addition to the air mail and air express services already in operation. Preparations for the inauguration of the Transatlantic Air Service are being actively continued in collaboration with the Governments of the United Kingdom and of Ireland.

In order to implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission to Investigate the Penal System of Canada, a Bill to appoint a commission to administer the penitentiaries will be again introduced.

Other legislative proposals will be laid before you and proceeded with as time and opportunity offer.

Members of the House of Commons:

The estimates for the Public Service, together with the Public Accounts, will be laid before you.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

In this critical time of the world's affairs, I pray that Divine Providence may guide and bless your deliberations.

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to retire, and the House of Commons withdrew.

The sitting of the Senate was resumed.

RAILWAY BILL

FIRST READING

Bill A, an Act relating to Railways.—Hon. Mr. Dandurand.

CONSIDERATION OF HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH

On motion of Hon. Mr. Dandurand, it was ordered that the speech of His Excellency the Governor General be taken into consideration on Tuesday next.

The Senate adjourned until Tuesday, January 17, at 3 p.m.

THE SENATE

Tuesday, January 17, 1939.

The Senate met at 3 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

RADIO BROADCASTING

REFUSAL OF BROADCASTING PRIVILEGES TO NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER

On the Orders of the Day:

Hon. RAOUL DANDURAND: Honourable senators, before the Orders of the Day are called, I should like to make a statement to the House concerning the radio broadcasting incident of last week.

Honourable members have doubtless seen reports in the press to the effect that the Government had refused the privilege of broadcasting to the publisher of one of Canada's leading newspapers. I simply wish to say that the Government has had nothing whatever to do with refusing any application that has been made to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Neither the Government nor any member of the Government had any knowledge that an application had been made to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation by the publisher of one of Toronto's leading newspapers, nor had any member of the Government any knowledge that such an application had been refused.

As honourable members know, the business of controlling and regulating radio broadcasting has been placed by this Parliament