

The General Assembly of the United Nations concluded, last month in New York, its first session begun in London a year ago. Canada's delegation both in London and in New York was representative of the government and the opposition, and of both Houses of Parliament. The Canadian delegation took an active and constructive part in the work of the Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Atomic Energy Commission and other international organizations. You will be invited to consider legislation to enable Canada to carry out our country's obligations under the United Nations Charter, and to approve other agreements arising out of the growing structure of international organization.

Canada welcomed the action of the United Nations in convening a World Conference on Trade and Employment. It is hoped that the Conference may bring into being an international Charter which, by the removal or reduction of restrictions, will result in the continuous expansion of world trade. During the autumn, preparatory trade discussions among the nations of the Commonwealth were held in London. Discussions are being continued with other of the United Nations. Canada's delegation to the Conference will be instructed to further to the utmost this combined effort on the part of the United Nations to liberate trade and thereby to assist in the maintenance of a high level of employment.

In our own country, the change-over from wartime conditions has proceeded rapidly. The repatriation and demobilization of the armed forces have been practically completed. Almost all dependents of veterans have now arrived in Canada. The three armed services have been brought under the jurisdiction of one Minister of the Crown. The navy, army and air force are being reorganized on a post-war basis.

Industry has been converted almost entirely from wartime purposes to peace-time production. Over a million persons have been transferred from the armed forces and war industry to regular civilian occupations. Employment is higher than it has ever been. It is over thirty per cent higher than it was in 1939. During 1946 Canada's external commerce reached heights unprecedented in peace-time. The national income is at its highest peace-time level. The outlook for trade and employment for 1947 is most favourable.

Despite the high volume of output in all the primary industries, the demand for the natural products of the farms, the fisheries, the mines and the forests continues to exceed production. Through marketing agreements, the government is seeking to give security and continuing stability to the incomes of primary producers.

Many of the controls and restrictions in force during and immediately after the war are no longer in existence. Others have been considerably relaxed. Controls over wages and salaries and over many prices and commodities have been removed. Other controls are being removed in an orderly manner.

The policy of the government is to maintain only such price and commodity controls as may be required to protect consumers from a sudden and drastic rise in the cost of living, and to ensure the fair distribution of essential goods and services which are in short supply. You will be invited to consider what measures may be necessary to continue this policy after the expiry of the National Emergency Transitional Powers Act. Where it may appear advisable to continue these or other transitional measures, the required legislation will be submitted for your approval at the earliest possible date.