

In the early months of the session the employment situation gave some concern but more recently the requests for labour have greatly increased and the expanding production, rising exports and prospects of bountiful crops indicate a continuing healthy state of the Canadian economy.

Because the economic well-being of the nation depends to such an extent on a high level of foreign trade, the government has pursued policies aimed at securing the most favourable export markets for the products of our labour and our land. At the international review of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade which took place last fall and winter, Canadian delegates were active in supporting a policy of removing trade restrictions and negotiating improved tariff arrangements.

A substantial revision of the Unemployment Insurance Act has been made in the light of past experience with this legislation. The coverage of the Act has been broadened, the periods of entitlement to benefits revised and the amount of both regular and supplementary benefits augmented.

To maintain the high standards of welfare measures in this country you have made amendments to the Blind Persons Act, the War Veterans Allowance Act and the Veterans Benefit Act.

Legislation has been enacted to provide for the inspection of meat and the establishment of standards for other agricultural products.

The amendments made to the Municipal Grants Act increase substantially the amounts to be paid by the government annually to the municipalities for their services to public buildings.

The various enactments relating to the Canadian National Railways have been consolidated in one statute.

You have passed a measure amending the National Parks Act and making provision for the establishment of a national park in the Province of Newfoundland.

Other measures you enacted include: the International River Improvements Act, the Foreign Aircraft Third Party Damage Act, the Canadian Forces Act, 1955, the Great Lakes Fisheries Convention Act and the Exportation of Power and Fluids and Importation of Gas Act.

Amendments have been made to the Criminal Code, the Canada Grain Act, the Railway Act, the Radio Act, the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act, the Defence Production Act, the Judges Act, the Canada Elections Act, the Transport Act, the Fisheries Improvement Loans Act, the Prairie Farm Assistance Act and the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority Act.

A Royal Commission has been set up to enquire into and report upon the prospects for Canada's economic future.

A Committee has been appointed to advise upon a uniform system of establishing manufacturers' prices for the application of the sales tax.

*Members of the House of Commons:*

I thank you for the provision you have made for all the essential services for the current fiscal year.