

*Governor General's Speech*

Europe. Additional measures to assist in meeting these and other imperative needs will be submitted for your consideration.

Preparations for the demobilization, rehabilitation and reestablishment in civil life of the men and women in the armed forces were well under way when Germany surrendered. The same is true of measures for the reconversion of the economic life of our country from a war-time to a peace-time basis, and for the maintenance of a high level of employment and national income. The plans thus developed to meet the requirements of the period of transition are now being put into full operation.

In the building of a new world order, my ministers are determined to seek above all else the promotion of peace, work and health in domestic and international relations. To further these great objectives, the government has received a definite mandate from the people of Canada.

The charter of the united nations which was signed by the representatives of the fifty nations who took part in the conference at San Francisco will be submitted for your approval. The charter expresses their determination to maintain peace in accordance with justice and respect for human rights, and to promote the welfare of all peoples by international cooperation.

To the promotion of national well-being, cooperation and goodwill between the dominion and provincial governments are as essential as these attitudes, between nations, are to the maintenance of world peace and international prosperity. You will be pleased to know that at the dominion-provincial conference held at Ottawa during August, a successful beginning was made in the consideration of proposals designed to contribute to the maintenance of a high level of employment and national income, and to the establishment of nation-wide social security. It is the earnest hope of my ministers that, when the conference resumes its deliberations, agreement may be speedily reached which will place the dominion and all the provinces in a financial position to discharge effectively their several responsibilities. Such agreements would make possible a reorganization of the dominion tax structure on a simpler, more equitable basis, conducive to the expansion of enterprise and employment.

Every effort is being put forth to ensure the return to Canada as rapidly as military commitments and transportation facilities will permit, of our armed forces serving abroad, and to accelerate the orderly release of men and women from the forces.

Through the joint efforts of the government, industry and labour, the conversion of war industries to civilian production is taking place with a minimum of delay and inconvenience.

It is the intention of the government to abolish war restrictions in progressive steps as rapidly as that can be accomplished without occasioning inflation or other economic disturbances. Such controls as are essential to the welfare of our people will be continued for as long as they are necessary.

You will be asked to approve a measure to extend certain specified emergency powers to meet emergency conditions in the period of reconstruction.

The maintenance of long-term markets for our primary industries is receiving close attention. The continuing need for foodstuffs both at home

and abroad will ensure, for some time to come, a heavy demand for the products of our farms and fisheries.

The government is continuing its efforts to stimulate the restoration and expansion of external trade. Measures to this end will be submitted for your approval.

In furtherance of stable international exchanges and adequate provision for international credit, you will be asked to approve a measure to provide for 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 reestablishment 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.

[Mr. Speaker.]