

In the belief that the family and the home are the foundation of national life, provision has been made for family allowances to aid in ensuring a minimum of well-being to the children of the nation, and to help gain for them a closer approach to equality of opportunity in the battle of life. Family allowances are being administered by the Department of National Health and Welfare. The registration of children begins to-morrow. The payment of allowances is to begin from July 1st.

In the opinion of my ministers, the Family Allowances Act and other social security measures designed to ensure a national minimum of human welfare will aid materially in maintaining production and employment.

The basic standard of living of the Canadian people and the purchasing power of the dollar have continued to be successfully protected by the price ceiling and other policies of the government designed to prevent inflation. The value of these policies will be more apparent than ever in meeting post-war problems.

As a further safeguard of a basic standard of living, provision was made at the present session of floors under the prices of farm and fish products. These measures insure two great primary industries against the hazard of a collapse of markets or prices after the war.

To advise and assist the government in the regulation and development of civil aviation, an Air Transport Board has been established. Under the government's policy regarding post-war civil aviation, of which you have been informed, international and transcontinental services are reserved for public development; local services may be developed by private enterprise.

In April and May, a meeting of Prime Ministers of the British Commonwealth was held in London. My Prime Minister participated in its proceedings and, while in London, addressed a meeting of the members of both houses of the Parliament of the United Kingdom.

In September, for the second time during the present war, the government was host to the Prime Minister of Great Britain and the President of the United States and their advisers, at a conference held at Quebec.

In the same month a meeting of the Council of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration was held at Montreal. During the year, Canada was also represented at the International Monetary Conference at Bretton Woods and at the International Conference on Civil Aviation at Chicago. There were continuous conferences on a variety of subjects between my Ministers and the governments of the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Sixth and Seventh Victory Loans, held during the year, substantially exceeded their objectives. In each loan, the number of individual subscribers established a new record. You will be gratified by this unparalleled response, and will desire me to record your appreciation of the splendid services of the National War Finance Committee and its provincial and local organizations.

During the past year, relations between employers and employees have been increasingly harmonious. A larger number of workers have been employed throughout the year than ever before. The production of foodstuffs and of the raw materials and finished munitions of war exceeded production in any previous year.

Too high a tribute cannot be paid to the unselfish devotion to war-time duties of the vast majority of our people in all walks of life. In addition to their daily tasks, hundreds of thousands have given freely of their time and