

in our history a measure to create an independent commission to recommend the changes required in the electoral districts as a result of the decennial census.

Comprehensive measures to put into effect my Government's economic policies were enacted in preceding sessions of this Parliament. The benefits flowing from these policies are now evident in record levels of employment, of production, and of export trade. There has been a substantial improvement since last year in the unemployment situation. As the result of the efforts of my Government through its municipal winter works incentive program, notable progress has been made in meeting the recurrent problem of seasonal unemployment. The Government has already announced its intention of asking you to approve another and larger program of assistance to municipalities for winter works projects.

Further measures to stimulate economic activity and promote national development will be placed before you this session. One of these will be the construction of a railway in the Gaspé Peninsula from Matane to Ste. Anne des Monts. Another will be the construction of a floodway and other works to conserve and control the waters of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers in Manitoba, for which agreement has now been reached with the Province regarding the division of costs.

Other measures which will help to enlarge employment by stimulating economic activity will include a bill to increase the total amount of financing of exports which can be undertaken by the Export Credits Insurance Corporation and an amendment to broaden the scope of the Small Businesses Loans Act.

The success of the recent "Resources for Tomorrow" Conference demonstrated the benefits of co-operation between governments in this field. My Government, in consultation with the Governments of the ten provinces, is examining suggestions made at that Conference for co-operative measures to encourage the wise management and multiple use of Canada's natural resources.

The provision of low-cost electric power is one of the most important factors in the economic growth and industrial development of Canada. As a further step in the national development policy, my Prime Minister has invited the provincial Governments to join with the federal Government in early discussions of the steps that might be taken toward the establishment of long-distance power transmission to link provinces and eventually the different regions of Canada.

You will be asked to provide for an expanded program of encouragement to scientific research by industry in Canada.

A bill will be placed before you intended to enable Canada to participate effectively in

arrangements for reinforcing the International Monetary Fund when additional resources are required to maintain stability in exchange markets in the face of substantial capital movements.

The maintenance of fair prices for farm and fishery products also continues to be a matter of prime concern to my Government and you will be asked to provide the funds necessary to sustain the price stabilization policy. My ministers have achieved a gratifying success in finding markets for grain and thereby reducing surplus stocks. The drought in the Prairie provinces during 1961 has resulted in severe losses, however, and you will be asked to provide assistance by means of acreage payments to the farmers who have been affected. Legislation will also be proposed to extend the period of application of the Farm Improvement Loans Act and the Fisheries Improvement Loans Act.

Important measures in the field of social welfare will also be proposed at this session. Your approval will be requested for an increase in the amount of the universal old age pension payable under the Old Age Security Act, and also for legislation to increase the amount to which the federal Government will contribute under the Old Age Assistance Act, the Blind Persons Act and the Disabled Persons Act. After the concurrence of the provinces for the necessary amendment to section 94A of the British North America Act has been secured, Parliament will be asked to approve a constitutional amendment in order to permit the introduction of a contributory system of old age pensions and related survivors' and disability benefits which will be in addition to the existing old age pension legislation and will take into account private pension arrangements and the need for legislation concerning portability of pension rights.

You will be asked to authorize the establishment of a national Council of Welfare similar to the Council of Health which has had a long record of usefulness.

You will be asked to approve an amendment to the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act to authorize the payment of allowances under specified conditions to merchant seamen, fire-fighters, foresters, members of voluntary aid detachments and certain other civilians whose war services overseas have been recognized in other respects. Other amending bills will provide for increased allowances and other improvements in the Children of War Dead (Education Assistance) Act and also for the extension of the effective period of the War Services Grants Act and the Veterans Insurance Act and for the extension of the qualifying period under the Veterans Land Act.