

standing controversy have been successfully adjusted. In several other directions legislation of far-reaching significance has been enacted.

It is a source of particular satisfaction that the public accounts of the fiscal year recently ended again disclose a large surplus and that it has again been possible to effect further material reductions in taxation, as well as a further reduction in the national debt.

Especially gratifying is the fact that, in continuance of the policy of endeavouring to remove all substantial difficulties in the relations between the Dominion and the Provinces, a settlement of the long-standing controversies respecting the Natural Resources of the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta has been effected. The several agreements have received your approval, as well as the approval of the Provincial Legislatures. Approval has also been given to the agreement reached with the Province of British Columbia concerning the restoration to the province of the lands comprising what is known as the railway belt and Peace River block.

The recommendations of the Royal Commission on Maritime Claims have been further implemented by the legislation which has been enacted with respect to the coal and iron and steel industries.

Extensive and comprehensive revisions have been made in the Customs Tariff with a view to bringing certain schedules more into line with modern business requirements, and existing economic conditions. Material and broad extensions have been made in the British Preferential Tariff schedules, as well as other adjustments which it is believed will serve to promote a larger measure of reciprocal trade between the component parts of the British Empire and with other countries.

The interest which has been evinced during the session in all matters affecting ex-service men demonstrates once more that Canada stands in the forefront in continued appreciation of her soldier-citizens and their dependents. The legislation providing allowances for veterans who may be unemployable as a result of non-pensionable disabilities, the amended procedure and methods of administration under the Pensions Act, the extension of time to applicants under the Returned Soldiers' Insurance Act, and the more liberal treatment accorded soldier settlers, will bring a much sought for relief to numerous individuals and homes.

The Fair Wages and Eight Hour Day Act gives statutory effect to the fair wages policy which, for some years past, has been observed on construction work under public contract. It provides also for the observance on such work of an eight hour day. The benefits of this legislation, both as to wages and hours, have been extended, under Government policy, to workmen employed on construction work by the Government itself. The principle of the eight hour working day has also been made applicable by the Government to employees in the public service.

To aid in the solution of the problem of seasonal unemployment, provision has been made for holding at an early date a conference of Dominion and Provincial governments, of representatives of municipalities, of transportation companies, and of industrial and labour associations, to consider methods of cooperation in furthering continuous employ-

ment throughout Canada during the winter months.

A Federal-Provincial Conference for the purpose of furthering cooperation between the Dominion Government and the governments of the several Provinces of Canada on matters pertaining to immigration has also been arranged.

The consolidation of the Canada Grain Act in accordance with the recommendations of the Standing Committee of the House of Commons on Agriculture, the provision made for increased storage facilities for grain, as well as the inquiry into the promotion of the live stock industry of Canada for which provision has also been made, should prove of substantial benefit to the agricultural industry.

To ensure the development of the fisheries resources of the Dominion and of the industries based thereon, provision has been made for the appointment of a Minister of the Crown to preside over a separate Department of Fisheries.

Conventions with the United States for the protection and extension of the sockeye salmon fisheries and for the preservation of the halibut fisheries of the Pacific Coast have received approval.

Forward steps in the field of international relations have been taken by the signature of the Treaty for Reduction of Naval Armament, by the extension of arbitration through the acceptance of the Optional Clause, and by the revision of the Statute of the Permanent Court of International Justice, all of which measures have received your approval.

Amendments to the Dominion Elections Act have been made which should further ensure fairness and the avoidance of partizanship in the administration of our electoral system.

Among other enactments of the session have been important amendments to the Companies Act, the Export Act, and the Criminal Code.

Members of the House of Commons:

I thank you for the supplies granted for the carrying on of the public services of the Dominion.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

In the opinion of my Ministers, it is desirable that the judgment of the people upon the questions which now engage public attention should be obtained during the course of the present year. In order to permit of Canada being represented at the Imperial Conference and the Imperial Economic Conference, which open their proceedings in London, on September 30, and to afford to Ministers of the Crown as ample an opportunity as may be possible to prepare for the important work of these Conferences, it has been deemed advisable that the present Parliament should be dissolved without delay, and the day of polling fixed for the earliest date possible after dissolution. I have, accordingly, to announce my intention of causing Parliament to be dissolved immediately following prorogation.

In taking leave of you at this time and under these circumstances, I desire to express the unqualified pleasure which I have derived from my association with you throughout the four sessions of this the Sixteenth Parliament of Canada. I pray that upon your labours the blessing of Divine Providence may be abundantly bestowed.