

"The present shortage of United States dollars will necessarily limit Canada's capacity to render further economic assistance to other countries. Canada, nevertheless, remains one of the few great producing countries with capacities unimpaired by the war. It is deeply gratifying that our country has been able to play so large a role in rendering assistance to war-devastated lands. In proportion to population, Canada's record has not been equalled by any other country. In the effort to further the great task of world recovery, Canada will continue, so far as is possible, to apply the principle of mutual assistance. Further assistance must, however, take into account the exchange difficulties which have arisen.

"My Government has progressively removed the controls made necessary by war. To meet a continuing need for some controls, you will be asked to approve an address praying that certain orders and regulations covered by the Continuation of Transitional Measures Act, 1947, which will terminate on December 31, be continued in force for a further period.

"Due to the gradual and orderly procedure that has been followed in the removal of controls, such increases in prices as have occurred have been less than would otherwise have been the case. My Ministers are concerned with increases in prices which have added to the cost of living. In certain instances, increases were felt to have been unjustified and price ceilings have been restored. Officials in the departments of government most immediately concerned have been directed to keep under constant supervision conditions of production and supply which tend to raise the level of consumer prices.

"The demand for the products of our primary industries generally continues to remain at high levels. In view of the price fixed for the 1948-1949 crop year under the Wheat Agreement with the United Kingdom, you will be asked to consider a measure to provide for an increase in the initial payment to producers.

"Despite the continuing scarcity of certain supplies and high building costs, a greater number of houses are being completed this year than in any previous year. You will be asked to consider plans for a low rental housing project for veterans.

"A measure similar to the one introduced at the last session of Parliament to provide more effective machinery for the adjustment of differences between employers and employees will be submitted for your consideration.

"The demobilization of the wartime forces of Canada was concluded in September. Steps are being continued to co-ordinate the organization and administration of the three armed services. A measure to consolidate all statutes relative to defence will be laid before you.

"The Fisheries Prices Support Board, the Dominion Coal Board, and the Maritime Commission authorized by legislation have been duly constituted.

"Measures to which your attention will be directed include Bills to revise the Income Tax Law, the Dominion Elections Act and the Canada Shipping Act. Bills relating to veterans will also be brought before you.

"It is the intention of the Government to recommend the reappointment of the Select Joint Committees on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, and on the revision of the Indian Act.

"Lengthy discussions between a delegation from the National Convention of Newfoundland and a Committee of Members of the Government have been held to explore the possibility of finding a mutually acceptable basis for the union of Newfoundland with Canada. The Government has announced terms which it believes to be a fair and equitable basis for union should the people of Newfoundland desire to enter into Confederation.

"The marriage of Her Royal Highness the Princess Elizabeth has been the occasion of widespread rejoicing. To Her Royal Highness the Princess Elizabeth and to His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, the people of Canada extend all good wishes for their future happiness."