

seeing that essential cargoes are carried, it co-operates with the United Kingdom Ministry of War Transport and the United States Maritime Commission. The Shipping Priorities Committee determines the degree of urgency or priority of the various shipping requirements, gives direction to the Shipping Board and forwards necessary requests for the use of United Kingdom and United States ships.

An Advisory Committee on Merchant Shipping Policy was established in September, 1943, to report on the merchant shipping policy and, in particular, the present manning of merchant ships, disposition of ships after the War, post-war size and composition of the Canadian merchant marine, and the type of permanent machinery required to carry out the post-war shipping policy.

An Advisory Committee on Economic Policy, consisting of senior officials of various Departments and agencies of government, was established in September, 1939, to investigate, report and advise on questions of economic and financial policy and organization arising out of Canada's participation in the War. During the autumn of 1943 it took over the functions of the Advisory Committee on Reconstruction which presented its detailed report to the Government in September. The planning and organizing of investigation and study of post-war problems by Departments and agencies of government now rest with the Advisory Committee on Economic Policy (see Chapter XXI).

Between Canada and the United States a number of joint committees are functioning. To act as liaison between the various agencies, the Joint Economic Committees were set up in 1941 with an over-riding responsibility to investigate and report on joint war-time economic problems not being currently studied by other agencies, as well as on problems of post-war adjustment. The development of other agencies of co-ordination made the continued operation of these committees unnecessary, and they were dissolved in March, 1944.

It is significant that the new agencies set up during the past two years have been established not only to deal with the war-time situation, but also to establish some machinery to deal with the problems that will arise after the War, especially in connection with the transition period between war and peace.

Questions of post-war traffic have come to the fore during the past year. An Interdepartmental Committee on Air Transport Policy was set up in June, 1943, to consider and advise on all matters having a direct bearing on Canada's international air-transport policy and all matters of domestic aviation policy affecting more than one Department of Government. This Committee worked on recommendations leading to a draft international air-transport convention presented by Canada as a basis for bilateral air talks between the United Kingdom and the United States; also to the establishment of an Air Transport Board, proposed to Parliament by the Government during the 1944 session. This Board will function as a regulatory and advisory body, to regulate civil aviation and advise the Government in laying out Canadian-operated routes within Canada and overseas.

To make a thorough investigation of Canada's health services for present and future needs, the Canadian Medical Procurement and Assignment Board was established in July, 1942. Its primary function was to determine the number of medical personnel available to the Armed Forces and at the same time to try to preserve adequate medical service for civilians. The complete survey of the medical, dental and nursing professions and present hospital and health facilities was tabled in March, 1944.