

(6) That all possible co-operation should be encouraged with Provincial Governments in the planning and installation of rural electrification as a means of improving the social and economic life of the farming population; that extended credit facilities—possibly through extension of the Credit Union system—should be provided and that the Co-operative Movement should be encouraged.

(7) That the coal and petroleum situation in Canada demands positive study and it is urged that the Government spare no effort in proving the Athabasca tar sands and testing Canada's vast coal resources for further economic uses.

(8) That serious thought be given to the preservation of forests on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains in order to conserve the water resources of the Prairie Provinces.

(9) That reforestation and afforestation be given serious study in co-operation with the Provincial Governments.

(10) That the Federal Government in co-operation with the Provincial Governments and the railway companies take positive steps to eliminate level crossings as early as possible.

In presenting these reports, the Chairman emphasized that the House of Commons Committee submitted them for the purpose of placing before the Government positive suggestions and stated that only a small part of its great task of surveying the entire field had been done.

Special Advisory Committees

The Advisory Committee on Demobilization and Re-establishment.—Under the Cabinet Committee on Demobilization and Re-establishment established in December, 1939, (see p. 737) a General Advisory Committee on Demobilization and Re-establishment was set up under Order in Council P.C. 5421 of Aug. 10, 1940, composed of ranking civil servants who represented the Departments of Government directly or indirectly concerned. This Committee was among the earliest to be set up to investigate and study under the reconstruction machinery of the Cabinet Committee. The Chairman of the Canadian Pension Commission was appointed Chairman of this Committee and the Associate Deputy Minister of Pensions, Vice Chairman. It was out of this Committee, as its field of effort developed, that the Advisory Committee on Reconstruction (see p. 743) grew.

The terms of reference of this Committee were: to act as the agency among various Government Departments in matters of demobilization and rehabilitation and to bring before the Cabinet Committee recommendations for legislation in respect of these matters.

Procedure and Action to March, 1944.—Because of the circumstances under which this Committee operated and because there was a legacy of administrative machinery from the War of 1914-18 upon which experience its recommendations could be based, it was possible for such recommendations to be translated directly into legislation. The obvious need for this policy existed since men, demobilized from the Forces from the earliest days of the present war, had to be adequately provided for and placed in civil life immediately. Sub-committees studied individual matters of employment of returned men, discharge pay, administration of special funds, retraining of certain casualties, demobilization, land settlement, priorities and methods, and returned soldiers' insurance and adequate emphasis was given to the