

Since 1939, Canada's energy has been directed to the objective of total victory, but the task of directing its enlarged productive capacity towards the maintenance in peacetime of a continued high level of productivity and employment has been kept in mind. Virtually all important measures dealt with at the session of Parliament which adjourned on Aug. 15, 1944, aimed primarily at some aspects of the task of combining the demobilization of the Armed Services and war industry with the rebuilding of an ample and more stable Canadian economy. Acts were passed which sought to provide increased employment opportunities in the period after the War; to help business, industry, fishing and agriculture in the shift from a wartime to a peacetime economy; to provide additional measures of social welfare and improve the administration of those already in force; to broaden the veterans' rehabilitation and re-establishment program and, finally, to give an indication of Canada's willingness to make certain international commitments as a member of the United Nations.

Canada's rehabilitation program for service personnel, considered to be one of the most advanced and far-reaching ever planned, is already being put in operation. Advice on post-war training and positions available is given by personnel counsellors of the Armed Forces, and an extensive scheme for guiding demobilized persons has been arranged. A general and extensive system of war service gratuities, rehabilitation grants, re-establishment grants of special living allowances while taking further schooling or training of some kind, and equitable pensions for disabled veterans and for the dependants of members of the Armed Forces who lost their lives in the War are included in the plans.

Continuance, in varying measure, of many wartime controls will be necessary for considerable time, but are being removed as supplies justify. Changes in military demand have made possible revision or removal of restrictions on some machinery, household goods, metals and other articles. Under the following headings more detailed reviews of the various developments that have taken place in regard to the national war effort are given.

### National Defence

**The Organization and Administration of National Defence.**—No noteworthy changes have taken place in the basic organization of the Department of National Defence since those published at p. xxvi of the 1940 edition of the Year Book.

**The Navy.**—If any period is reckoned as the period of greatest Canadian naval achievement during the Second World War and possibly for years to come, it must be the months from early in 1944 until V-E Day, May 8, 1945. During those months, the Royal Canadian Navy reached its greatest expansion in men and ships, undertook its greatest responsibilities, scored its greatest successes and, regrettably, suffered some of its greatest losses.

The Royal Canadian Navy had attained heavy offensive striking power by the early months of 1944. The first evidence of this came with the pre-invasion sweeps in the English Channel, in which powerful Canadian destroyers took part, with a view to clearing German shipping from those waters. The enemy suffered heavily in warships and merchant shipping as a result of these sweeps and Canada paid with the sinking of the Tribal class destroyer, H.M.C.S. *Athabaskan*, with heavy losses in dead, missing and prisoners-of-war.