

service gratuities and re-establishment credits, the latter to be available for the purchase of housing, furniture or instruments and implements needed in a given occupation; special insurance at low rates convertible into annuities; legislation to expand and improve land settlement facilities and to provide for farm improvement projects. All these matters are dealt with, and progress recorded in detail at pp. 862-884.

Interdepartmental committees representing the Defence Departments and the responsible civilian Departments have been organized to give effect to these policies. One of these committees, the Interdepartmental Committee for the Co-ordination of Rehabilitation Information, is of special interest to veterans. It has the responsibility of keeping veterans informed by press, radio, motion pictures and other means of new changes in Government policy, economic opportunity and health matters affecting their welfare.

The Department of Reconstruction.—This Department was established by statute in June, 1944, following several concurrent recommendations from various reconstruction committees, such as the House of Commons Committee and the Advisory Committee on Reconstruction. The Minister, who is also the Minister of Munitions and Supply, was charged with the following responsibilities:—

- (1) To inform himself fully of the needs for new employment of the men and women in the Armed Forces and in industry and the opportunities that will be available to meet those needs as men and women are demobilized from the Armed Forces and as war production declines.
- (2) To co-ordinate the actions of other Departments and agencies of the Government of Canada for the purpose of ensuring that the transition from a wartime to a peacetime economy shall be effected as quickly and as smoothly as possible.
- (3) To formulate plans for industrial development and conversion, public works and improvements, housing and community planning, research and the conservation and development of natural resources, and with the authorization of the Governor in Council, to provide for carrying out such plans.
- (4) To correlate information relating to plans for reconstruction.

To assist in the attainment of these purposes a Cabinet Committee on Reconstruction was established on Oct. 13, 1944, by Order in Council to examine and take steps to implement approved reconstruction proposals.

The Department of Reconstruction is designed primarily to serve as an agency for the over-all review of the fields of reconstruction and rehabilitation. Its purpose is to ensure that the various programs from other Departments are properly fused to see that each specific Department or agency is charged with the fulfilment of necessary duties falling within the reconstruction program, and to see that reconstruction plans are carried out.

The Department is organized in the following Divisions:—

Industrial Reconversion.—The changeover of industry from a wartime to a peacetime basis must be accomplished with as little disturbance as possible to the normal flow of employment and income in Canada. While industry itself must take the primary initiative in this matter, the Department of Reconstruction provides, through this Division, means to assist industry to develop a high degree of economic activity and stability. Information will be furnished regarding the most economical uses of pre-war plants and of new plants developed for specific war purposes, also the most profitable use that can be made of productive techniques that have proved efficient during the War. Every assistance will be given to industries in the solution of their problems.