

post-war years, while plans for later years are also being laid. The Department of Public Works has already made or is completing plans for construction projects, including the building of provincial hospitals, at a proposed cost of \$62,000,000. A comprehensive forestry scheme will be undertaken by the Department of Lands and Forests, covering forest protection and management, and fire control. In this connection, a preliminary start was made in the war period so that the program could be fully implemented soon after the end of hostilities.

A key agency of post-war reconstruction is the Department of Planning and Development, established in March, 1944. Three branches are now operating: (1) *Conservation*—which deals with all natural resources except coal, oil, gas and minerals; to date, it has been concerned primarily with the problems of the farming areas of southern Ontario. (2) *Town and Community Planning*—which co-operates with the Department of Municipal Affairs in assisting municipalities in handling problems of growth and administration. (3) *Trade and Industry*—which supplies industrial engineering services to all communities and industries in the Province. In conjunction with Ontario House at London, England, this Branch seeks to foster post-war trade with European countries.

*Surveys.*—A number of important investigations and surveys have been undertaken. The Interdepartmental Committee on Conservation and Rehabilitation co-operated with the Dominion Advisory Committee on Reconstruction in completing a survey of the Ganaraska River region. The final report, made public on Oct. 15, 1944, recommended a comprehensive program of soil conservation, reforestation, and flood control, based on the entire river system. The work of this Committee has been taken over by the Conservation Branch of the Department of Planning and Development.

The Ontario Agricultural Commission of Inquiry was established in September 1943, with wide representation from farm groups. In March, 1945, it reported on the subjects of soil conservation, agricultural credit, education, rural organization, live stock and dairying, and agricultural floor prices. Its recommendations in regard to marketing problems are still forthcoming. The Commission of Inquiry largely superseded the Ontario Committee on Agricultural Policy, set up in April, 1943.

The report of the Royal Ontario Mining Commission, appointed on Oct. 27, 1943, was presented on Oct. 5, 1944. A number of basic changes were recommended, not necessarily related to post-war problems, such as more generous depreciation allowances and income tax exemptions in the industry, and the retention of a larger share of mining tax revenues by the mining municipalities. The Department of Mines has since opened a technical school for the mining industry—the Institute of Mines, at Haileybury.

A Committee on Planning, Construction and Equipment of Schools in Ontario was appointed in November, 1944. It will make recommendations after inquiring into the planning and equipment of schools; standard methods of construction; standards for mechanical services; and the useful physical life of school buildings.

A Royal Commission on Education is currently conducting hearings.

*Rural Electrification.*—The Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario has planned "A Five-Year Plan for Post-War Rural Hydro Development", involving an expenditure of about \$22,000,000 by the local Hydro Commissions on labour and materials, with the Ontario Government providing a grant-in-aid to cover