

CHAPTER XXII.—POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION*

CONSPECTUS

	PAGE		PAGE
SECTION 1. THE DOMINION GOVERNMENT PROGRAM OF RECONSTRUCTION.....	831	Subsection 2. Liaison Maintained between Reconstruction and Supply and Other Federal Departments.....	838
SECTION 2. THE DOMINION DEPARTMENT OF RECONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLY...	835	Subsection 3. War Assets Corporation...	840
Subsection 1. The Purely Departmental Administration.....	836	SECTION 3. PROVINCIAL PROGRAMS OF RECONSTRUCTION.....	842

The first phase in the framing of Canada's post-war economic policy began long before the cessation of hostilities, and consisted of intensive study of reconstruction problems by a variety of public bodies. The preliminary organization of this work is outlined at pp. 737-743 of the 1943-44 Year Book. Committees of the Senate and House of Commons, the Advisory Committee on Demobilization and Re-establishment, the Advisory Committee on Economic Policy and the Advisory Committee on Reconstruction all shared in this preliminary task of studying post-war problems and making recommendations for economic policy. The reports of the last-named committee and its sub-committees were tabled in the House on Jan. 28, 1944. The main report is summarized on pp. 745-747 of the 1943-44 Year Book.

Out of all this preliminary study developed the Government's White Paper on Employment and Income (see pp. 843-847 of the 1945 Year Book). The White Paper set forth the aim of the Government's reconstruction policy as follows:—

"The central task of reconstruction in the interest of the Armed Services and civilians alike, must be to accomplish a smooth, orderly transition from the economic conditions of war to those of peace, and to maintain a high and stable level of employment and income."

That part of the broad policy which required for its implementation co-operation between the Dominion and Provincial Governments, was translated into more specific and concrete terms in the "Proposals of the Government of Canada" presented before the Dominion-Provincial Conference on Reconstruction in August, 1945. The Dominion proposals, summarized below, set out in some detail the Government's legislative and administrative program aiming at the maintenance of a high level of employment and income during the post-war transitional period and the years to follow and offered a basis of agreement with the Provincial Governments on the distribution of tax-collecting powers and administrative responsibilities necessary to implement such a program, initially for a three-year period.

Meanwhile the Dominion had created new administrative machinery to implement its reconstruction program. In June, 1944, the Department of Reconstruction was created, and in October, 1944, a Cabinet Committee on Reconstruction was set up. In January, 1946, the former Department of Munitions and Supply was merged into the new Department of Reconstruction and Supply.

Section 1.—The Dominion Program of Reconstruction

The constitutional aspects of the Dominion-Provincial Conference on Reconstruction are dealt with on pp. 79-81 of this volume. The economic program for the transitional period contemplated by the Dominion Government which is set out in detail in the "Proposals of the Government of Canada" can be summarized as follows:—