

**Summary of the Dominion Proposals on Reconstruction.**—In order to realize a high and stable level of employment and income, steps should be taken

- (1) to create the conditions under which private enterprise can provide the maximum income and employment;
- (2) to promote bold action by the State in those fields in which the public interest calls for national development;
- (3) to try to provide, through public investment and other means, productive employment for our human and physical resources when international and other conditions adversely affect employment; and
- (4) to provide, on the basis of small regular payments against large and uncertain individual risks, for such hazards and disabilities as unemployment, sickness and old age.

Because Canada is a federal state, these responsibilities are shared by the Dominion and Provincial Governments. The main purpose of the Conference was to devise a working co-operative arrangement to this common end in harmony with the existing federal system.

The Dominion Government indicated that it would undertake the following measures to meet transitional economic problems and create the climate necessary for continued expansion of the economy.

*Decontrol.*—Wartime controls over prices, wages, rent, manpower, trade and commodities would be removed in accordance with a policy of gradual decontrol as speedily as conditions permit.

*Rehabilitation.*—Aid to the re-establishment of ex-service men in the nature of cash grants on discharge, protection of the right to pre-enlistment jobs, training and financial assistance for re-employment, and a measure of social security would be provided.

*Housing.*—The present emergency housing legislation would gradually be translated into a well-integrated, continuing housing program with encouragement to community planning, aid in financing home construction both for rent and ownership, greater uniformity in building by-laws, slum clearance, and assistance to low-rental housing projects. Steps would also be taken to increase the supply of skilled construction labour and building materials.

*Reconversion.*—Administrative machinery in the Department of Reconstruction and Supply would formulate plans for economic development and industrial expansion, assist industry in the reconversion of its productive facilities and direct the termination of war contracts and the disposal of surplus war assets.

*Agriculture and Fisheries.*—Measures designed to aid in the stabilization of this important industry would include steps to prevent violent fluctuations in farm prices, to give the agricultural population a measure of social security and to expand the experimental, marketing and conservation programs.

*Labour.*—Wage control would be gradually relaxed as inflationary pressures ease, and provincial powers of labour legislation would be restored as soon as possible.

*Public Investment.*—In co-operation with the provinces and municipalities, a well-planned program of useful public development works would be drawn up. It was intended that public projects should cover the various avenues of public investment: conservation and development of natural resources, transportation improvements, communal and recreational facilities, research, exploration, etc. Financial support for these projects would be integrated to fit into an over-all program of full employment. Public investment should be timed in such a way as to counter, rather than aggravate the effects of cyclical fluctuations of business conditions.