

# CHAPTER XXVIII.—POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION\*

## CONSPECTUS

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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 the preliminary task of studying Canada's 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 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 sets forth the aim of the Government's reconstruction policy as follows:—

"The central task of reconstruction, in the interests 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."

Canada is a Federal State, therefore, responsibilities for attaining these objectives have to be shared by the Federal and Provincial Governments. That part of the broad policy on Reconstruction requiring co-operation between the Federal and Provincial Governments was translated into specific terms in the "Proposals of the Government of Canada", presented before a Dominion-Provincial Conference on Reconstruction in August, 1945. (The constitutional aspects of this Conference are dealt with at pp. 79-81 of the 1946 Year Book.) The Dominion proposals 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. Subjects covered by the proposals were decontrol, rehabilitation, housing, reconversion, agriculture and fisheries, labour, public investment and social security. (Details of these proposals will be found at pp. 80-81 and 832-833 of the 1946 Year Book.) The proposals concluded with a suggested basis for agreement between Federal and Provincial Governments on administrative responsibility and the distribution of tax-collecting powers necessary to implement such a program, initially for a three-year period.

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