

Social Security.—The full implementation of the Government's program of social security, involving such things as national health insurance and extension of old age pensions and unemployment insurance must be carried out in collaboration with the provinces. At present, it is being held in abeyance until the situation in respect to Dominion-Provincial tax agreements, which are now being concluded with several provinces, is further clarified. The payment of Family Allowances was inaugurated in July, 1945. About 1,600,000 families were receiving around \$21,700,000 per month in allowances for 3,650,000 children in mid-1947. The average allowance per child was nearly \$6 per month, which represented an average supplement to the income of families with children of a little over \$13·50 per month. Unemployment insurance protection was extended to inland and ocean seamen in 1946. Provision was also made for a wider interpretation of "dependent" for unemployment insurance purposes and to permit supplementary earnings to be increased from \$1 to \$1·50 per day.

In June, 1947, legislation was introduced in Parliament under which the Federal Government would assume three-quarters of the cost of old age and blind pensions up to \$30 per month, an increase in the basic pension rate of \$5 per month. The aggregate permissible income from pensions and other sources was increased from \$425 to \$600 per annum. This latter provision allows many persons not previously qualified to apply for pension.

Section 2.—The Department of Reconstruction and Supply

The Department of Reconstruction and Supply, created by statute proclaimed on Dec. 24, 1945 (9-10 Geo. VI, c. 16), was the result of a merger of the Department of Munitions and Supply, established in April, 1940, and the Department of Reconstruction, provided for by legislation passed in June, 1944. Both Departments had been headed by the same Minister, and the amalgamation was designed to integrate the Government's effort to facilitate the transition from war to peace. The functions of this new Department were twofold: firstly, to liquidate the Government's commitments arising out of, and following the conclusion of, the War; and, secondly, to assist in the formulation of plans designed to maintain a high level of employment and income in Canada in the transition period and the years to follow. The functions of and the work done by the Department up to mid-1946 were reviewed in the 1946 Year Book, on pp. 835-842. The sections that follow review, therefore, the developments from mid-1946 to mid-1947

Subsection 1.—Liquidation of the War Program

Controls and Priorities.—In the year under review the power, motor-vehicles, coal and rubber controls administered by the Department of Reconstruction and Supply were lifted. As of July 1, 1947, the Department continued to administer controls over iron and steel, lumber, pulpwood and wood fuel. These controls were retained for the time being to assist in the best possible allocation of resources still in short supply to both home and foreign markets. Certain functions of the Coal Controller of a non-control nature were taken over by the Dominion Fuel Board, reconstituted by P.C. 5236 of December, 1946, and to be absorbed by the Dominion Coal Board when established by Parliamentary enactment (see p. 1113). Control over radio-active substances, formerly administered by the Department, was turned over to the newly created Atomic Energy Control Board, by P.C. 1098