

chandising Ltd., War Supplies Ltd., and Wartime Shipbuilding Ltd. All of the foregoing wartime Companies had been concerned with particular phases of the Government's industrial and economic war effort and their task was completed with the conclusion of the War. One exception is the Park Steamships Ltd., a Crown Company assisting War Assets Corporation as a disposal agent for cargo ships declared surplus. Of the Government's wartime fleet of upwards of 150 cargo vessels administered by the Company, most ships had, by mid-1947, been sold for peacetime ocean trade. It is expected that this Company will complete its assignment with the transfer of the ships remaining in public ownership to the Canadian Maritime Commission, whose establishment was proposed in June, 1947. There remained then only a few Crown Companies which appeared to have significant peacetime functions. These were reorganized and continue to operate (see Subsection 2).

### **Subsection 2.—Continuing Functions for Industrial and Economic Development**

The Government's commitment for "a high and stable level of employment and income" has had administrative implications which, towards the end of the second post-war year, became more clearly defined. Three main functions evolved: (1) the need for an objective appraisal, both in quantitative and qualitative terms, of the economic problem involved in making the most effective use of Canada's resources, both human and natural; (2) the need for devising administrative units within the Government to cope effectively with economic problems not falling within the responsibility of existing Departments, either by developing such units within the Department of Reconstruction and Supply or assisting other Departments to establish new branches where such a procedure appeared desirable in the interest of efficiency of administration; and (3) the need for integrating the Government's effort to assist in the maintenance of a high level of employment and income, particularly as this effort concerned the physical and industrial aspects of the problems faced. A number of branches within the Department of Reconstruction and Supply and several Crown Companies reporting through the Minister of Reconstruction and Supply to Parliament, formed the institutional fabric charged with the task of effectively rounding out the Government's administrative machinery. At the same time, the organization was kept sufficiently flexible to allow for organizational and departmental changes that may become desirable as a result of developments in the post-transition period.

#### **Departmental Branches**

**Economic Research Branch.**—This Branch, which grew out of the research secretariat of the Advisory Committee on Reconstruction and the Advisory Committee on Economic Policy, was established in the Department of Reconstruction in November, 1944, and with the amalgamation of the Departments of Munitions and Supply and Reconstruction in December, 1945, expanded into an economic intelligence unit designed to appraise and keep under observation the state of the Canadian economy. The work involves economic forecasts of the level of employment and income, exports and imports, investment and consumer expenditures, the potential development of supply bottlenecks of materials and labour, the progress of reconversion, modernization and expansion of industry, management-labour relations, changes in the cost-price and supply-demand relations, productivity, inventory holdings and savings habits of the Canadian people. Information on