

Administrative Agencies.—To help cope with the administrative problems of the post-war period, the Government has made a number of important changes in departmental organization and has used the instrumentality of Crown Companies, boards and other agencies to decentralize certain continuing peacetime functions of government. Among examples of this line of development are:—

Departments.—A Department of Reconstruction, established in 1944, was amalgamated a year later with the Department of Munitions and Supply to form the Department of Reconstruction and Supply, charged with liquidating the Government's commitments arising out of the War and with the continuing function of assisting in the formulation of plans designed to maintain a high level of employment and income (see pp. 1113-1119). Duties discharged by the Department of Pensions and National Health were taken over on a much expanded basis by two new departments set up in 1944—the Departments of Veterans Affairs and of National Health and Welfare (see Chapters XXIX and VII). The reconstitution of one single Department of National Defence at the end of the War involved a closer integration of the three Armed Services and was followed by the establishment of a Defence Research Board to co-ordinate military research and development and an Industrial Defence Board to co-ordinate plans for rapid industrial and economic mobilization in the event of war (see Chapter XXVIII).

*Crown Companies and Boards.**—Among the Crown Companies and Boards established during or after the War to discharge duties that the Government wished to decentralize are (1) Canadian Arsenals Limited, which develops and provides weapons for the Armed Forces, (2) Canadian Commercial Corporation, a purchasing and sales organization, (3) the Export Credits Insurance Corporation, which writes insurance against credit losses on exports or agreements to export general commodities or capital goods, (4) Polymer Corporation Limited, manufacturing synthetic rubber, (5) Eldorado Mining and Refining (1944), Limited, which mines and refines uranium ore, (6) the Atomic Energy Commission, to control the production and use of radio-active materials, (7) the Dominion Coal Board, established to assist the coal industry, (8) the Canadian Maritime Commission, dealing with problems peculiar to the shipbuilding and merchant shipping industries, (9) the Industrial Development Bank, to assist financially small and medium-sized business enterprises and (10) Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, to co-ordinate federal housing policy and to administer federal housing enterprises and enactments.

Economic Analysis.—To help formulate a program for maintaining a high level of employment and income in the country, there has been a marked development since the end of the War of economic forecasting and a close follow-up of economic development. The Economic Research Branch, created within the Department of Reconstruction (later the Department of Reconstruction and Supply) and recently transferred to the Department of Trade and Commerce, undertakes to forecast levels of employment and income, exports and imports, investment and consumer expenditures, supply of labour and materials, progress of industrial development, changes in cost-price and supply-demand relations, productivity, inventory holdings, and savings habits of the Canadian people. This information is assembled into national forecasts of employment and income and supplemented by special reviews of the outlook for development of major economic regions and the more important industries. Other Government departments assist the Economic Research Branch

* See also pp. 1117-1118, and 1947 Year Book, pp. 1107-1108.