

realized will be spent in Canadian shipyards, provided they can supply suitable replacements, there is a provision that orders placed abroad must be approved by the Canadian Maritime Commission.

The most far-reaching development in the field of special problems of industry has been the Government's efforts to provide a more stable economic base for farming and fishing communities than was found to exist during the depression years before the War. In respect to the farming community, for example, it has involved such things as spreading the flow of income to Western Canadian grain growers more evenly through the payments policy of the Wheat Board; the development of a system of agricultural commodity contracts with the United Kingdom; the provision of irrigation and other water utilization projects and an attempt at better land utilization through projects under the Prairie Farms Rehabilitation Act and the Eastern Rocky Mountains Forest Conservation Act; the assurance of fair prices for agricultural products by means of the Agricultural Prices Support Act; and greater facilities for obtaining short-term and intermediate loans provided for under the Farm Improvement Loans Act. Similar provisions have been made for fishermen where applicable.

The report in 1947 of a Royal Commission inquiry into the coal industry was followed in the same year by an Act* establishing a Dominion Coal Board (see p. 452) to absorb the functions of the Dominion Fuel Board and keep the production and marketing of coal in Canada under continuous review. The Board administers coal subventions and advises the Government on a flexible policy designed to meet the varying coal needs of the major economic regions of the country. An important section of the Act gives the Government wide powers of control over coal and fuel oils upon proclamation of a fuel emergency by the Governor in Council.

The Labour Market

The Canadian labour force increased from a total of 4,946,000 in 1946 to 5,017,000 in 1948. The change represented an increase in civilian employment of 227,000—from 4,652,000 to 4,879,000—allowance being made for the decrease over the two years in the other two components of the labour force—a decrease in the strength of the Armed Forces from 151,000 to 36,000 and in the number of unemployed from 143,000 to 102,000. Unemployment in all three post-war years has been at a relatively low figure; it represented about 3 p.c. of the civilian labour force in 1946, and dropped to about 2 p.c. in the two succeeding years. (See also Chapter XVIII.)

Part of the increase in the working force was recruited from the flow of immigrants into the country (see Chapter V), but the increment is not known because of incomplete data on the numbers withdrawn from the working force through emigration. Over the three years 1946-48, the total number of immigrants was about 260,000, of whom 80 p.c.—about 94,000 males and 114,000 females—were 15 years of age or over.

* Geo. VI, c. 57, July 17, 1947.