

gested. The agreement was proposed initially for a three-year period and would involve no constitutional changes, although there was one recommendation for a constitutional amendment to provide for delegation of powers from the Dominion Government to a Provincial Government or vice versa whenever desired by both Governments.

The fiscal proposals were that the provinces should withdraw from the personal income tax, corporation tax and succession duty fields in return for annual subsidies which would not fall below a guaranteed minimum and which would rise proportionally with population and increases in per capita gross national product. The amount of the subsidies proposed was approximately 50 p.c. above provincial receipts under the Wartime Tax Agreements.

The public investment proposals outlined a substantial expansion in the Dominion program for natural resource development, conservation, and public works, and also a large increase in Dominion assistance to provincial services and construction projects either through joint participation or by grants-in-aid. Particular emphasis was put upon, and tangible encouragement offered to, the advance planning of works and, in so far as practicable, the timing of public investment expenditures with a view to helping to stabilize employment and offset fluctuations in the business cycle.

The social security proposals were among the most extensive undertaken by any country. Family allowances had already been put into effect in 1945. The Dominion now proposed, in addition, to pay a \$30 a month old-age pension without a means test to everyone 70 years of age or over; to contribute 50 p.c. to provincially administered old-age assistance under a means test for people from 65 to 69; to make grants to the Provincial Governments for general preventive public-health work and for the prevention and cure of tuberculosis, mental diseases, venereal disease, and other specific ills; to contribute approximately 60 p.c. of the cost of provincially administered health-insurance schemes; to make low-interest loans for hospital construction; to provide assistance for all unemployed able and willing to work, not covered by unemployment insurance, at the scale of approximately 85 p.c. of the unemployment insurance benefits; to provide and assist in the provision of greatly expanded vocational training and other rehabilitation services to improve employability.

The Dominion-Provincial Conference in August adjourned, after five days' discussion, to consider the proposals and any alternatives or amendments to them. A Co-ordinating Committee under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister of Canada, consisting of three Dominion Ministers and the nine Provincial Premiers, was established and subsequently held three meetings in camera from Nov. 26 to Nov. 30, 1945, from Jan. 28 to Feb. 1, 1946, and on Apr. 25 and 26, 1946. An Economic Committee, consisting largely of technical representatives of the different Governments, was also established and met for three weeks in December, 1945, and January, 1946, for the exchange of information and the development and clarification of the proposals in detail. The Economic Committee under its terms of reference made no collective report, but its members reported to their respective Governments. The Co-ordinating Committee reported back to a full plenary session of the Dominion-Provincial Conference when it reassembled on Apr. 29, 1946.