

CHAPTER XXVII.—RECONSTRUCTION*

CONSPECTUS

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A dominant element conditioning Canada's economic development since the end of the Second World War has been the transfer of about one-half the human and physical resources of the country from a wartime to peacetime basis. The progress made has been recorded in the Year Books published from 1944 to 1947 in Chapters entitled "Post-War Reconstruction and the Rehabilitation of Ex-service Personnel," and later "Post-War Reconstruction". The transfer of resources to peacetime use is now largely an accomplished fact. It is proposed to review this post-war reconstruction effort for the last time in this Year Book in the Sections that follow.

Section 1.—The Federal Program of Reconstruction

The abnormal, temporary phenomena that have characterized the past few years as a "reconstruction" period are (1) re-employment of war veterans and war workers in peacetime pursuits; (2) reconversion of plant and equipment to peacetime use; (3) liquidation of the war production program; and (4) relaxation and abolition of wartime controls. Although almost all Departments of the Federal Government have participated in the reconstruction program, the agencies most concerned have been the Department of Reconstruction and Supply (see Subsection 2, pp. 1114-1115), Department of Veterans Affairs, the Wartime Prices and Trade Board and the National Employment Service (Chapters XXIX, XXII and XVIII describe the work of these last Departments).

Subsection 1.—Planning for Reconstruction

The transfer of manpower and industrial resources from a wartime to a peacetime basis was carried through successfully, partly because the economic environment was favourable, and partly because the task was thoroughly planned and the facilities needed to execute it were provided. The Federal, Provincial and Municipal Governments, and industry and labour made plans to cope with their respective reconstruction problems and contributed suggestions to Dominion agencies engaged in planning to enable the separate schemes to be co-ordinated within the national framework (see Section 2).

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