

timber and building materials, to use priorities to ensure an adequate supply of building materials to priority projects, and to maintain an "equitable distribution" policy on many types of consumer goods to ensure established firms of a fair share of production.

Export, Import and Foreign Exchange Controls.—There was a progressive relaxation of these controls after the War ended. However, in the face of the high level of economic activity in Canada and the deterioration of economic conditions in most parts of the world, the system of controls has been retained to protect Canada's position in the field of international trade. These controls are now exercised under special legislation—the Export and Import Permits Act (11 Geo. VI, c. 17) and the Foreign Exchange Control Act (10 Geo. VI, c. 53). The War Exchange Conservation Act, 1940, was allowed to lapse at the end of 1947.

Labour Controls.—Wage controls were dropped in November, 1946, the last of the controls over employment in April, 1947, while wartime labour-management regulations were allowed to lapse in May, 1947, in so far as they applied to labour relations falling within provincial jurisdiction.

The object of the Government—a gradual and orderly relaxation of wartime controls so as to assist the national economy to make the transition to a peacetime basis without undue dislocation—was attained. One hope in timing the rate of decontrol was that the international price level would have reached an initial stability before the major part of the controls were dropped, thereby avoiding the economic problems of adjustment to falling prices. This hope was not realized and there was a marked rise in domestic prices throughout 1947 and 1948 to record heights.

Section 2.—Provincial Programs of Reconstruction

All Provincial Governments undertook post-war reconstruction planning during the war years, the results of which have been evident in new administrative agencies to foster economic, social and cultural development as well as to furnish greater facilities to assist industry and to provide for the welfare of the people.

The scope of provincial planning was broadly based. Although the emphasis varied with regional circumstances, planning included resource development, the problems of industry and trade, social welfare, and public finance. Attention was given to the need to conserve, and sometimes to reclaim land, forest, mine and fish resources and to ways of providing for their more orderly utilization. Ways and means of coping with the problems of the primary industries, and particularly of the farming and fishing communities, were explored and recommendations were made on such subjects as land use, soil erosion, flood control, irrigation, reforestation, land settlement, market possibilities, and trade and price practices. Potential fields for the growth of secondary industries through the availability of raw materials and power, new production techniques and processes for expanding domestic and foreign markets were considered as were also the possibilities of increasing tourist trade. As an aid to the growth of primary and secondary industries, most provincial planning bodies gave consideration to such matters as rural electrification, more and better transportation facilities, means of supplementing existing credit facilities and the need for better research and development facilities. In the field of social services, the more important subjects considered were education (provision of both schools