

the previous session "has served to focus public opinion upon the whole problem of post-war reconstruction"; and further that "the contents from the Speech from the Throne may be taken as a sequel to efforts put forth" by these Committees.

The House of Commons Committee on Reconstruction and Re-Establishment

This Committee was originally established by a Resolution passed in the House of Commons on Mar. 24, 1942, "that a select committee of the House be appointed to study and report upon the general problems of reconstruction and re-establishment which may arise at the termination of the present war, and all questions pertaining thereto; with power to such select committee to appoint from among the members of the committee, such sub-committees as may be deemed advisable or necessary, to deal with specific phases of the problems aforementioned, with power . . . to call for persons, papers, and records, to examine witnesses under oath and . . . to report from time to time to the House; . . ." Authority for the continuance of this Committee has been renewed by the House of Commons each year.

Procedure.—The House of Commons Committee has held meetings continuously from Mar. 24, 1942, to date and has presented reports each year to the House. Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence are published as House of Commons Sessional Papers and are available through the King's Printer. The procedure takes the form of statements before the Committee by leaders in industry and other witnesses called to report in their respective fields and to answer questions put by the Committee members regarding the subject matter of such statements. Four Provincial Governments have already presented briefs to the Committee. The evidence is then used to formulate specific recommendations to Parliament. The Sessional Papers, therefore, take the form of "Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence" reported verbatim at the meetings.

Recommendations.—Four reports have so far (February, 1944) been submitted by the House of Commons Committee to the House: The First and Third were routine reports which require no comment, the Second Report dated June 23, 1943, (Paper No. 23 Session of 1943) emphasizes the following points:—

(1) That creation of employment is the most immediate reconstruction problem of post-war Canada. This concerns the proper utilization of natural resources through flood control, irrigation reservation, conservation of water, exploration of mineral and oil deposits, development of water powers and the provision of highway and railway transportation as required by settlers and industry.

(2) That a Department under ministerial responsibility should be established to carry out the various tasks of reconstruction.

(3) That certain action can and ought to be taken at once: other matters will from their nature have to wait until after the War. Inventories of positively known resources and proper surveys of the others should be undertaken immediately with the objects defined under (1) above in order to bring about a better balance of the Canadian economy.

(4) That re-housing is an absolute post-war necessity. Authority should be taken by the Government to finance better homes for the people living under unhealthy slum conditions.

(5) That the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act, if applied to the whole of Canada, would greatly improve Canada's agricultural life and that the Act be amended accordingly.