

The Government White Paper

Maintenance of employment, family income and standards of living, promotion of export and import trade for Canada is in part the Liberal government's post-war program as set forth in the White Paper presented yesterday by the Hon. C. D. Howe, minister of munitions and supply and of reconstruction.

The government is able to point to a record of achievement on which to base its plans for the future. In the past five years the productive capacity of the Dominion has been mobilized and increased to an unparalleled level. Canada has risen to second place in the world as an exporting nation. She has gained a place of distinction in the family of Allied nations. She has achieved this under the leadership of the present Liberal government.

For the future, the government has set its course toward the maintenance of full employment. Plans for the change-over from war to peace-time production include the security of employment for all able-bodied workers. After the war, 960,000 more jobs will have to be found than were required before the war. In the shift from war to peace industries, some wage-earners may temporarily be taken off pay-rolls. In this event a number of measures are ready to go into operation by which family stability will be maintained. Among these are the \$250,000,000 unemployment insurance fund, family allowances and vocational training program. Through a network of measures, it is stated in the White Paper, the government will encourage primary and other industries to maintain employment. In addition, the government has clear-cut plans for public works to take up the immediate post-war slack. It proposes to do all this while decreasing taxation. Price controls and anti-inflation measures will be maintained to protect citizens' purchasing power. Particular attention will be paid to employment plans in localities from which war industries are removed.

Homes for the demobilized forces are in the category of welfare as well as employment opportunities. The government will provide special grants for slum clearance and generous assistance in financing projects to provide good housing at low rentals.

The maintenance of Canada's position as a leading trading nation has received special attention from the government. Production levels and standards of living of Canadian workmen will be protected by the expansion of trade with other countries. Canada will continue the mutual aid program to help the United Nations until victory in the Pacific has been added to the victory in Europe. Canada will fulfil her pledge to UNRRA. Credits will be extended to encourage Canadian exports, and imports will be encouraged as well. Former markets will be restored and new ones developed for Canadian goods. War-stricken nations will be aided in restoring their production and developing their export capacities. With the co-operation of management, labor and all citizens of the Dominion, this country should be able to avoid economic crises, should be able to proceed without stumbling and without casualties on the peace highway.

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149
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