

Shortage of labour, lack of fertilizers, and adverse climatic conditions in many districts have unfortunately tended to reduce the Dominion's dairy production. This fact is causing my Government much anxiety, and my Minister of Agriculture is at present devoting close attention to the introduction of a new and comprehensive programme for increased farm production.

The question of an annual holiday with pay for all workers has received full examination, and a measure will be submitted to Parliament during its present session. My Government have under consideration a proposal for the provision of a minimum home and family income as set out in the principles upon which they were elected.

In preparation for post-war developments in education it is proposed to convene a conference widely representative of organizations and individuals interested in education. The whole field of education will be open for review, but special attention will be paid to the needs of the pre-school child, the provision of facilities for adolescents, and adult education.

It is the intention of my Ministers, in the immediate future, to set up a Royal Commission to investigate fully the operation of the licensing laws of this Dominion and to make such recommendations as it thinks fit with a view to bringing such laws into line with the requirements of modern times.

Matters relating to State superannuation have been receiving the attention of my Government, and a Committee of my Ministers has been set up to make an examination into the question of anomalies and to submit recommendations for any necessary adjustments.

Recognizing the desire and the need in the Dominion for a further development of physical welfare and recreation, my Government have under consideration proposals for increased financial resources for this work, and more particularly, for the establishment of community centres for the people.

My Advisers propose to extend the provisions of the War Damage Act, 1941, to include insurance against earthquake damage.

I commend these matters to your earnest consideration and pray that in your deliberations you may be guided by Divine Providence for the safety and well-being of New Zealand and her Island Territories.