

also be asked to consider Bills dealing with rehabilitation, education, civil aviation, gaming, town planning, soil conservation, the Justices of the Peace Act, the Juries Act, the Family Homes Act, the Infants Act, the Licensing Act, the Family Protection Act, the Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Act, the Sea Carriage of Goods Act, and the Deaths by Accident Compensation Act. Bills will also be presented to consolidate the Shipping and Seamen Act, the Hospitals Act, and the law relating to coroners, and to the registration of births and deaths.

The work of law reform is continuing with the full co-operation of the Law Revision Committee, consisting of representatives of the Law Society and the Faculty of Law. A Criminal Justice Bill, designed to protect society against hardened criminals and to further the work of reformation of young offenders, will be presented to you. There will also be legislation to increase the criminal jurisdiction of magistrates.

An Official Secrets Bill will be submitted for your consideration. This measure will replace the United Kingdom Act of 1911, which is the only legislation on this subject in force in New Zealand, and will bring the law on official secrets into correspondence with present needs. The Bill has been prepared with regard to experience in other countries in recent years.

The continuing prosperity experienced by all sections of the community, and particularly the primary producers, is a matter for gratification. My Government attaches the greatest importance in its policies towards the maintenance of the basic industries which are the source of our national wealth—those industries based on the soil and whose output governs in such direct measure the standard of living which the people as a whole may enjoy. Prices received for farm products have increased and seasonal conditions have on the whole, been favourable. Dairy production has been maintained at record levels, and, though meat production has declined, the statistics of live-stock population indicate a very sound position.

As a result of the survey made of the national health scheme, amending legislation will be submitted to you for the reconstitution of the Central Milk Council. My Advisers regard the town milk industry as one of special local concern, and it is intended that the new Council will take every opportunity to develop local responsibility.

The preservation and development of our forests and rural lands continue to receive close attention. Offers from private enterprise to join with the Government in establishing a pulp and paper industry have been invited by my Ministers.

The task of rehabilitating ex-servicemen continues to engage the attention of my Government. The development of land for settlement by ex-servicemen has been maintained, and upwards of 3,261 ex-servicemen were assisted in building their own homes last year.

The report presented by the Royal Commission on War Pensions has been considered, and effect has already been given to certain of the recommendations providing for more liberal pension payments. Legislation to validate these payments will be submitted to you.

The provision of housing in town and country for Maoris and Europeans continues to receive close attention. Encouragement is being given to the ownership of houses by families who occupy them, and the response by occupants of State rental houses to the offer of purchase of these houses has been good. More than one thousand State rental houses, valued at more than two million pounds, have already been sold, and applications continue to be received at a very satisfactory rate. My Ministers recognize that there will always be some families who, for various reasons, are unable to undertake the responsibilities of home ownership, and, to provide for such cases, the policy of building State houses for rental purposes will be continued.

The advancement of the social and economic welfare of the Maori people is a matter to which the Government attaches the utmost importance. The development of Maori land is being carried forward as speedily as possible. To meet the needs of the Maori people coming to work in the cities it has been decided to subsidize the establishment of suitable hostels.