

encouraging progress is being made in the organization of Maori Women's Welfare Leagues, the principal functions of which are to help Maori women to attain higher standards of nutrition, infant welfare, and homecraft.

The development of Maori lands is being extended, and an increasing number of settlers, having repaid advances made to them by the Government, are being given leasehold tenures. The majority of settlers on development schemes have hitherto had no regular tenure, their occupation being a matter of arrangement with the owners of the land. It is considered that a proper leasehold or freehold tenure is essential in the interests of both occupiers and owners, and efforts are being made to improve tenures as quickly as possible.

Under legislation passed in 1950 the Maori Trustee has been making progress in bringing into production Maori lands which have been lying idle through complications of title or other causes. Action is also being taken to grant leases of such land either to competent owners or to other persons.

My Government feels that the system of Maori land tenure is likely to break down completely unless determined steps are taken to reduce piece-meal succession to interests in land. Legislation consolidating the Maori Land Acts and also introducing important amendments to the law of succession to Maori lands will therefore be laid before you.

The successful re-establishment in civilian life of so many of the ex-servicemen of World War II is a source of satisfaction to my Advisers. Much effort has been expended to achieve this result, which was only attained through the voluntary co-operation of all those members of the community who so willingly made their services available both as members of various committees and individually.

The full resources of the rehabilitation service will continue to be available for men of Kayforce to assist their return to civilian life.

Progress is being made in the development of unimproved land in Crown ownership to provide farms for ex-servicemen eligible and qualified for farm settlement. This work is now so far advanced as to make it possible to embark on a civilian settlement scheme under which unimproved and partly improved properties will be made available for settlement by young farmers and others not eligible for rehabilitation finance.

The immigration programme is being carefully planned so as to avoid any adverse effects on industry or the economy generally. The Immigration Advisory Council, which is representative of all sections of the community, has contributed materially to the successful implementation of my Government's immigration policy, a cardinal feature of which is that special preference is given to migrants from the United Kingdom.

My Advisers propose to appoint a Committee to assist them in planning the development of hospital administration so as to provide the best service in the most economical manner. It will report on the various problems, including the provision of base hospital services, the administrative machinery, and the procedure for the control of expenditure.

With the considerable reorganization in the coal-mining industry, and after a decade of shortages, the production of most classes of coal is sufficient for all requirements, and no coal is at present being imported. Special attention is being given to conserving resources of bituminous coal.

My Advisers are gratified at the considerable improvement in industrial relations and the greater productive effort in certain major industries, which in some cases have increased output by as much as 25 per cent. These developments, combined with the abundance of work available, have offered real benefits to the community generally.