

It is my Minister's intention to proceed with the implementation of this policy among Government employees when the Committee has submitted its report and a way found to overcome any difficulties that may arise.

It is proposed to place before you measures designed to revise the Scaffolding and Excavation Act 1922, and to amend the Apprentices' Act 1948, the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1954, the Shops and Offices Act 1955, and the Workers' Compensation Act 1956.

The well-being of the Maori people will be advanced by all practicable means available to my Government. Provision for expansion, consistent with the economic position of the country generally, will be made in the construction of homes for Maori ownership, in order to meet a situation which is still a cause for some concern. Land development and welfare work will be continued and special emphasis placed on the training of Maori youth for skilled and professional occupations. My Government gratefully acknowledges the valuable contribution made in social work by voluntary Maori organisations.

Large and complex tasks face us in the field of education due both to the very rapidly increasing numbers of students, and to the vital importance of ensuring that the quality of education at all levels is maintained and, where possible, improved. Facilities are being developed to meet new social and economic needs.

My Ministers are pressing forward their policy of technical and technological education. The erection of a new building at Seddon Memorial Technical College in Auckland will free the existing buildings for use as a polytechnic, while at the Central Technical College in Petone a new full-time course for the education of pharmacists will open in February next. My Ministers envisage that the Technicians' Certification Act of 1958 will be brought into operation towards the end of this year.

The expectation that the number of students attending our universities will double within the next few years has prompted my Government to set up a Committee, which will include eminent university administrators from overseas, to inquire into the whole question of university education in New Zealand. In addition a vigorous building programme is under way, including current work on a new dental school for the University of Otago and a new school of engineering for the University of Canterbury. An overall plan for the future development of the University of Auckland is in course of preparation. My Government has approved the establishment of branch university institutions at Hamilton and Palmerston North.

My Ministers propose that the Commission on Education which is to investigate generally the working of the education system in this country, and which was forecast when I last addressed you, should not begin the hearing of evidence until the Committee on University Education has completed its deliberations.

In fulfilment of the undertakings that had been given, my Government has increased benefits payable under the social security and universal superannuation schemes. In addition, improvements in the operation of these schemes are being progressively introduced as they become administratively practicable.

My Ministers regard family welfare as a basic principle of their policy, as is evident from the recent launching of the scheme which enables family benefits to be applied in the acquisition of homes. Advances in necessitous cases are being made for the repair and maintenance of the homes of social security beneficiaries. By the establishment of a guidance and counselling service my Ministers are concerned to ensure that social, as well as economic, welfare is extended throughout the whole community.

You will be asked to consider a Bill designed substantially to remove certain discriminatory provisions in the nationality and citizenship law which hitherto have operated to deter some new settlers from seeking New Zealand citizenship.