

A Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Amendment Bill will be introduced to extend the powers of the Catchment Commissions to coincide more closely with those of the Catchment Boards.

Honourable Members—My Government will continue to deal energetically with those matters which impede the progress of the Maori people. In particular, a high priority will be given to education and to the training of young Maoris for skilled occupations.

The progress in the development of Maori land, including capital advances to incorporations, will be maintained and full attention will be given to the difficulties confronting Maori people moving into the cities.

Following the transfer of Maori schools to Education Board control at the beginning of this year, my Government intends to reconstitute the National Advisory Committee on Maori Education to make it more directly representative of Maori educational interests.

Last year my Government announced proposals to improve the staffing of secondary and primary schools. New schemes have been introduced to supplement the supply of teachers coming from the training colleges. Older people are being encouraged to take up, or resume, careers in teaching and there has been a most promising response to the campaign launched at the beginning of this year to recruit teachers in the United Kingdom.

The change to 3-year training in the primary teachers training colleges will be completed as planned by the end of 1971 and it will then be possible to speed up the progress that is being made in the reduction in size of primary classes.

My Government intends to continue the extension of facilities for higher technical education, taking into account the recommendations of the National Development Conference.

My Government is concerned to encourage the practice and appreciation of the arts through the work of the Queen Elizabeth the Second Arts Council and it has recently increased its financial assistance to the Council.

Earlier this year my Government received a report on the General Wage Order system from a Committee comprising representatives of the main parties involved. The recommendations of this Committee, together with representations since received, are being carefully studied. It is the intention of my Government to introduce amending legislation this Session.

During the recent economic recession the demand for labour in New Zealand fell and my Government took steps to provide additional employment for those unable to obtain work. The demand has risen again and there are now more vacancies than men available to fill them. However, my advisers are well aware that for some people and in some parts of the country, employment is difficult to obtain. In this connection the Auckland Advisory Committee on Training and Employment is already working on some of the problems which lead to insecurity of employment.