

My Government has accepted the targets for growth in New Zealand manufacturing presented to the National Development Conference. To assist in achieving these targets my Ministers will continue to promote the diversification and growth of efficient manufacturing industries, so enlarging job opportunities for the growing labour force, providing a greater range of goods for both producers and consumers in New Zealand and extending the range of New Zealand's exports.

During last year my Government made a major contribution to maintaining the productive capacity of the sheep industry, which had been threatened by a combination of depressed wool prices, a reduced lamb schedule, and higher costs of production. The Stock Retention Incentive Scheme provided much needed financial assistance and helped to check the decline in sheep numbers. The return of more prosperous conditions in the sheep industry, including a very substantial increase in wool prices and more recently in lamb prices, has relieved the position considerably.

The Wool Board and other elected representatives of the farmers have recently endorsed a scheme for the establishment of a corporation to acquire and market New Zealand's wool. This is now being discussed by wool producers, and subject to its general acceptance by them my Ministers will submit for your consideration a Wool Marketing Corporation Bill to implement the scheme.

Earnings from dairy exports have reached record levels and this welcome return to prosperity after several poor trading years will enable the industry to build up its reserves and expand and further diversify its productive capacity.

Honourable Members, my Ministers are concerned that unemployment has increased. Productive employment is being provided on a temporary basis with Government departments and local bodies for unemployed persons and other measures have been adopted to stimulate demand in the short term. A longer-term solution to the problem will be provided by the economic growth which the government is promoting. My Government has also established a new employment service, initially in the Auckland region. Its aim will be to provide an advisory service to workers and employers.

The employment problems of Maoris and other Polynesians are receiving my Government's special attention. There has been a steady expansion of the special vocational courses for young Maoris and other Polynesians from country areas. The scope of the Maori Trade Training Scheme has been enlarged and the number of girls and boys taken on pre-employment courses has been increased. A special vocational course for city girls and boys has now been introduced.

My Ministers have been considering proposals for a review of the existing law on industrial relations. At the same time the Employers' Federation and the Federation of Labour have been holding joint discussions on the form the new industrial legislation should take. The parties have reported to the Government on the results of these discussions. My Ministers propose to introduce a Bill which will revise entirely the present industrial legislation. Its provisions will take into account the views of the Employers' Federation and the Federation of Labour.

My Ministers have carefully considered the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into Equal Pay and the views of interested parties on those recommendations. An Equal Pay Bill will be introduced this Session which will substantially adopt the Commission's main recommendations. There will be some consequential amendments to other legislation.