



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 52/43

THE FOUNDATIONS OF CANADA'S POST-WAR PROSPERITY

A speech by the Minister of Justice, Mr. S.S. Garson,
to the Toronto Young Men's Board of Trade,
September 23, 1952.

... I propose to survey with you some of Canada's present responsibilities and opportunities.

Most of you doubtlessly view these responsibilities and opportunities as taxpayers and business men; I as one sharing responsibility for public policy. What we see are different sides of the same coin. Since, under present conditions, few things are more essential in our country's interests than that government and business understand one another's viewpoints, let us for a few moments look at this coin together.

In the last half-century our world has been disrupted by two great wars. As the aftermath, old and historic states have fallen; traditional patterns of trade and commerce have been damaged or destroyed; new nations, created out of war, now struggle precariously to maintain their existence; social, political and economic thinking has had to be revised or replaced. Everywhere there has been an atmosphere of turbulence and change, as all nations have sought to heal their war wounds and adapt themselves to the new conditions which the War, with its destructive effect upon established institutions and its stimulation of technological change, has produced.

Thus, the difficulties and problems of this post-war situation were grave enough in themselves. They have been enormously aggravated by the dark clouds of Soviet imperialism. The result of this is that the free world has had to superimpose upon the already heavy burden of reconstruction, the much heavier burden of defence. Some of the responsibilities we Canadian citizens now face are the result of these world-wide difficulties. They are brought home to us daily by the newspaper headlines and perhaps in an even more forceful way by the prices and taxes we pay.

The best way to dispel worry about future problems is to reflect on that we have come through since the War.

When we become impatient or disheartened by these pretty stark realities and by what appears to be the even more dismal prospects of the outside world of our day, the best antidote that I know is to look back at what we have come through in the past - in the very recent past. How recently it is that we were being favoured with annually-renewed prophecies of a post-war depression in Canada. How recently it is that so many of these intelligent and informed viewers-with-alarm never ceased to wonder how, as a relatively small nation, our civilian economy could possibly absorb at the end of the War the nearly two million Canadian citizens who had come out of our armed services and war