

necessitate negotiations with respect to the alterations and additions made during the war, and may involve the disposition of property on such premises.

5. We foresee the probability of confusion, delay and clashes of interests if departments individually attempt to formulate plans and negotiate liquidations of inventories and commitments. Further, we visualize administrative risks if Ministers and officials alike are harassed by the importunities of speculators seeking a profit because the Government has surplus stocks.

6. Finally, we are of opinion that, for a considerable time to come, the liquidation of surplus assets should be regulated, in order that the real needs of Canada - war and civil - are best served.

7. The plan we offer for consideration is founded on such considerations as:

- (a) When war assets become surplus to an administrative need, they should be removed from the custody and control of the holding department.
- (b) A distinction may be drawn between the management of public assets, held for administrative uses, and those held for liquidation.
- (c) It may be desirable, in the public interest, to liquidate slowly, and in some cases to recondition or render to basic material before disposal.
- (d) The task is a commercial operation and, with the sanction of Parliament, should be so regarded.

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