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## Some Problems of Canadian Reconstruction

**Time is opportune to take steps to meet readjustment after war—Necessity to organize for world trade—Complete adjustment with labor needed—Economy, Confidence and Expansion.**

Sir John Willison, president of the Canadian Industrial Reconstruction Association has been touring Canada in the interests of creating a public opinion in favor of some concerted action leading to the readjustment of the entire industrial situation which will be consequent on the return of peace. While in British Columbia recently he delivered two addresses, one before the Canadian Club, Vancouver, and the other before a public meeting in the Avenue Theatre, Vancouver. His remarks were well and attentively received and were stimulating to business men in directing their attention to the grave problem which will be involved when peace comes. Sir John's presentation of the subject was apt and timely, and inasmuch as the war news was reflecting the color in which the end could be definitely perceived although not indicating a definite time, the exact time is still in the future. His remarks, coming as they did at this time caught the business interests of the province in a very receptive mood. If any plans are to be made for grappling with the problems of reconstruction, it is time that these steps should be considered now. The position of Sir John Willison as a publicist in handling these problems is peculiarly free from the taint of sectional interest or class prejudice. Long a journalist, he has been enabled to grasp problems free from the capitalistic point of view and where he is known, as he is in Toronto, he is highly regarded in labor circles and has their complete confidence.

Whenever he spoke his remarks gathered round a statement of national policy which he enunciated at a meeting of business men at Galt on July 17th last, and it is a study of this comprehensive statement which enables the business man to get some idea of the problems involved and the necessity for him to take a part in the working out of those problems. Of the situation as it exists today, Sir John says: "What will be the situation in Canada when peace is restored? Between 200,000 and 250,000 workmen engaged

in the manufacture of munitions and war supplies will have to be provided with other employment. Many factories not directly producing munitions or filling war contracts have an indirect relation to the war industries. In greater or lesser degree their staffs and plants are engaged in furnishing material and supplies for war purposes. For the time the whole industrial fabric rests upon a war basis. Inevitably there will be shock and dislocation when the war ceases. Not only will industries employing a quarter of a million men have to be readapted to a state of peace but between 300,000 and 400,000 soldiers will return from Europe for whom places must be provided. In short, between 600,000 and 700,000 men released from military service or from war industries will have to be placed on the land, in the factories, in the shops, in the professions or in such other positions as they may desire or as may be available. Since many of these men have families altogether at least 1,500,000 or possibly 2,000,000 people will be vitally affected by the withdrawal of the armies from the field and the cessation of war orders for Canadian factories.

"We will fail grievously in duty to the soldiers if we do not provide the employment they will have the right to demand when they return to Canada. We should know before they embark for home what every soldier in the Canadian army desires to do, for what work he is best fitted, at what point he should be demobilized, and where he can be placed in a profitable occupation if the position which he held before enlistment is not open. Many of those who will come back to us are young men who, as has been said by a special correspondent of The Toronto Mail and Empire, enlisted from high schools, colleges and universities, who had never worked, and who have spent in the army the years in which they would have been making places for themselves. Many of forty years of age or over will come back after long service without money or occupation, and with initiative and energy impaired. 'Leaders of thought in the army,' says this correspondent, 'favor the return of men from Europe to immediate occupation in Canada. They fear the effect on the men of a long period of idleness. They are anxious that other fields of labor than

### SAVE FOR VICTORY

Thrift is the mark of a good citizen.

It implies refraining from self-indulgence and excess. It is certain evidence that the mind rules over the body, that the desires and appetites are under control. Plain living and high thinking go hand in hand. Frugality and economy have always been regarded as synonymous by the great moralists. These qualities prevent the unfortunate situation where the borrower becomes servant to the lender. The thrifty man is a pillar of strength to his country. In these days when Canada is mobilizing her full financial strength to win he is the true patriot. He saves and conserves that the call to lend for Victory may never go unanswered.