

THE CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BOARD OF TRADE BUILDING

MONTREAL

PROGRESS REPORT

ON THE

CAMPAIGN FOR ECONOMY IN PUBLIC FINANCE

1. Seven special monographs have been prepared by Mr. W. Sanford Evans, Chairman of the Research Committee, on various phases of debts, public expenditures and taxation. These monographs have been printed in pamphlet form and some ten thousand copies were distributed to the members of the Federal and Provincial Parliaments, and to leading business directors throughout the Dominion. Three additional monographs on the Railway Situation were also released by the Committee and widely distributed.
2. The total newspaper publicity on the Campaign has amounted to 500 columns of which 100 columns are editorial comment. This has been general throughout all the provinces. Several magazines have also carried special articles on public expenditures and taxation. For instance the National Home Monthly with a circulation of two hundred thousand had recently a specially prepared article by Mr. Sanford Evans.
3. A large number of addresses by the Chamber's officers and members of the National Economy Committee have been given these last few months in a large number of provincial centres. The annual meetings of various agricultural, industrial and financial associations have been addressed together with Canadian and Service Clubs on the subject of Governmental economy.
4. The annual addresses of the Presidents and General Managers of the Banks, Insurance and Trust Companies have usually referred to the necessity for public economy and references have been very frequently made to the facts as collated by the National Economy Committee.
5. The co-operation of the Provincial and Federal Governments have been specifically sought and secured. The Prime Minister in writing the Chairman of the National Committee at the beginning of the year said:

"I congratulate you most heartily upon the very successful efforts you are making in dealing with the problem of the expenditure of public monies in the Dominion. It will be difficult for us to survive unless the most rigid economy is practised by the Federal Government, and I think you will agree we have accomplished much during the past two years. With all good wishes for your continued success in the field in which you have given such constructive service .."
6. On March 2nd, the President and Chairman in an official communication to the Finance Minister urged greater governmental economies with the end in view of balancing the budget at the earliest possible date.
7. With the coming down of the Federal Budget, the President sent out a carefully prepared Questionnaire to the National Committee and Directors whose unanimous opinion was that sufficient economies had not been made in Federal expenditures.
8. Strengthened with the foregoing representative business opinion from coast to coast, the Chamber addressed a further communication to Mr. Rhodes under date of April 12th, again reiterating the need for further economies this present year and expressing disappointment and concern that the Federal Budget, as now before Parliament, while adding to the already heavy burden of taxation, does not indicate that economies have been adopted to the degree necessary to meet the present serious conditions and respectfully suggests that those economies already proposed be further extended to permit of the national budget being balanced at the earliest possible date.