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Canadian Chamber of Commerce Proposed

National Organization Discussed Both in East and West
—Recent Conference of Boards of Trade in Calgary
Favorable—Work of Similar Organization in United States

FOR some time past the possibility and the desirability of forming a business association of national extent in Canada has been discussed both in the eastern and western provinces. A thorough discussion of the subject took place at a meeting in Calgary some months ago of representatives of various western boards of trade. The constitution of an organization patterned after similar bodies in Great Britain and the United States was carefully considered. The Winnipeg Board of Trade was then requested to initiate correspondence with eastern boards of trade to secure their views. Favorable responses were almost in every case received. In view of its pivotal position in Canada, Winnipeg is excellently suited to take a lead in a movement of this kind.

Such an organization might have a beneficial effect in removing some of the misunderstanding which now prevails between industrial interests in the east and west. It would stimulate and develop a viewpoint that would be national both as regards geography and industry.

It is the intention of the Winnipeg Board of Trade, as soon as reports should be received from all sections, to call a meeting of all commercial and business organizations in the Dominion, representative business men, railroad officials and members of the government. Possibly the call for this centralized conference may be issued in the name of the premier or acting premier, as was done in the United States by ex-president Taft, when he called together the organization meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States in February, 1912.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

In view of the great similarity in industrial organizations between this country and the United States, it is certain that much could be gained by an examination of the resolutions achieved in the latter country.

Purpose of the Organization

The fundamental aims of the United States Chamber of Commerce are given in article one of the by-laws as follows:—

"This association shall be known and designated as the Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America. It is formed for the purpose of encouraging trade and commercial intercourse between the States, the Territories, and insular possessions of the United States of America and with foreign nations, and of promoting co-operation between chambers of commerce, boards of trade and other commercial and manufacturers' organizations of the United States, increasing their efficiency and extending their usefulness. It is intended to secure co-operative action in advancing the common equity in business usages and laws and proper consideration and concentration of opinion and questions affect-

ing the financial, commercial, civic and industrial interests of the country at large."

As an indication of the lines of activity to be pursued this year by the United States organization, the following resolutions, passed at the seventh annual session in St. Louis, may be quoted:—

"We recommend consideration of revision of all federal laws dealing with business conditions, to the end that by proper readjustment of their provisions and of the functions of federal agencies, industry and commerce in the United States may clearly know at all times their powers, rights, limitations and obligations.

"Our government should scrupulously refrain from entering any of the fields of transportation, communication, industry and commerce, or any phase of business when it can be successfully undertaken and conducted by private enterprise. Any tendency of government to enter such fields should be carefully weighed in the light of its possible effect upon the very genius of our institutions.

"The stimulation and development of the nation's international trade is vital to the country's prosperity and the solution of its economic and industrial problems. The members of this chamber, all business, agricultural and industrial associations and organizations, should direct the attention of their members to the importance of this subject and the necessity for encouragement and support of all measures which will facilitate and enlarge American trade with other countries, extend American banking and insurance to accompany and supplement the foreign enterprises of American commerce, and provide adequate cable and wireless facilities.

"The position of the United States as a creditor nation tends to stimulate American investment abroad. It is desirable that every possible encouragement be given such investment, as an essential factor in the development of American foreign trade. Legitimate American investment abroad is entitled to the same measure of protection in the countries where made that is given by this government to foreign investments in the United States. The United States should enunciate and enforce a firm policy for the protection of American citizens and legitimate American enterprises and investments in foreign lands.

"The interests of the public require an immediate resumption of construction activities in order that the housing and other construction needs of the nation, necessarily deferred by the war, may be provided and that labor may find ample employment. The Federal government, especially the railroad administration and the treasury department, as well as state, county and municipal authorities, should proceed with public work wherever possible.

"The government should promptly return to their respective owners the telegraph and telephone properties now being operated by the government, and congress is urged to enact such legislation as will permit, by voluntary agreement and under proper federal consent and regulation, any consolida-