

# BRITISH COLUMBIA FINANCIAL TIMES

*A Journal of Finance, Commerce, Insurance, Real Estate, Timber and Mining*

Vol. III. No. 17

VANCOUVER, SEPTEMBER 2, 1916

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THE YEAR \$2.00

## Necessity to Prepare for Coming of Peace

Forthcoming National Trade and Commerce Convention to be Held in October is for the Purpose of Preparing the Country for the Advent of Peace.

The Minister of Trade and Commerce, Sir George E. Foster, will call the business interests of Canada together in October next in a National Trade and Commerce Convention, for the purpose of discussing ways and means of meeting the situation that will arise on the conclusion of war and for the purpose of embarking on a programme that will meet and solve the tremendous issues that will be thus involved.

His "Call to Action" is as follows:—

"For nearly two years a colossal and far-reaching war has convulsed the activities and disturbed the avocations of the world, has destroyed an incalculable amount of accumulated wealth, killed and disabled millions of the world's best workers, abstracted millions more from beneficent productive work to provide munitions for the destruction of life and property, and involved the warring nations in expenditures and debts which pass the powers of man to comprehend, the burden of which must remain for long years to cripple and restrict the progress of mankind.

"Though no one can foresee the end of this war, yet the end must be drawing appreciably nearer and peace must eventually come. Until that time comes production will be largely abnormal, and every possible energy must be directed to the great purpose of preparing soldiers, providing munitions of war and supplies for its maintenance. The normal work of industry and productive power must, for the time, give precedence to war work.

"But the date draws continually nearer when this abnormal activity will cease, and the world, and Canada along with it, will move back towards normal. The transition period will, I believe, prove more grave and critical than that which marked the plunge from peace to war in 1914.

"In the belligerent world fully 20,000,000 adult men will lay down arms and flood back into the fields and factories, the cities, towns, and countrysides; whilst millions more will lay down the tools now being used in making war

munitions and take up again the tools of peaceful pursuits, and still other millions, now engaged in the vast subsidiary services of the war, will be thrown out of employment and have to look for work in other lines.

"The change is obvious on a moment's reflection; but it needs the deepest and most serious thought to adequately sense the tremendous meaning of that change.

"In Canada we shall have our problems to solve, and it will tax the wisdom and energy of us all to bring about a successful solution.

"Therefore it becomes necessary for business men and men of knowledge and experience to begin an earnest study of the situation that must soon be faced.

"As one means to this end, the Department of Trade and Commerce has thought it wise to convene in the coming autumn a convention of the business men of Canada, to advise together, out of their practical and varied experience and knowledge, as to the best means of meeting the coming situation and of mobilizing the business forces of Canada so as to employ our labor, increase our production, and enlarge our markets along peace lines.

"Before such a convention meets, it is necessary that much spade work be done, much study and thought bestowed, and much consultation and interchange of views be had in each great branch of production and distribution.

"In no other way can such a gathering be rescued from becoming a mere theatre for declamation and debate and turned into a useful and effective means to the great end

desired. Therefore I am venturing to solicit most earnestly the help and co-operation of Boards of Trade, the Manufacturers' Association, the great transport corporations, the bodies of scientific and industrial research, the engineering associations, the labor bodies, the mining, fishing, lumbering, and agricultural interests, the banking institutions, and generally of all men of knowledge and experience.

"If these will begin at once to examine, to think, to discuss, and to confer with one another in their respective fields of work and activity, they will be better prepared to answer certain fundamental questions which must be asked and answered before our productive and distributive capabilities become properly mobilized and energized for the great work that lies before us.

The readers of this Journal are the representative and influential business men of British Columbia. We believe that if they should undertake to make a personal matter of using their influence with their employees and with those with whom they come in contact, of urging participation in the forth coming Dominion Loan, the response of British Columbia would be much larger than last year. It is the patriotic duty of all to subscribe to this Loan to the limit of their financial ability. The interest return will be very favorable and the security absolutely unquestioned. Participation only to the extent of \$100 will be one of the best lessons in thrift that could be placed before the individual of slender income or earnings.