

CONSTRUCTION

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FRASER S. KEITH - - - EDITOR AND MANAGER

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A NATION'S OPPORTUNITY

Opportunity is knocking at Canada's doors with a loud, insistent rap. An epoch in Canada's development is pending. Are we going to heed the call, that comes with no uncertain sound, and measure up to a standard in keeping with the resources with which we are lavishly endowed, or are we going to drift along and lose for all time the chance that beckons? While the seriousness of the grim struggle in which we are engaged and in which our heroes are giving up their lives, grows more impressive each day, and which will call for still greater sacrifices in men and money, we have another role to play. The future must be faced. Solving the problem of the part Canada is to take as her share in rehabilitating the waste of war and in engaging in world commerce, involves the economic and industrial welfare of the Dominion and represents the greatest opportunity ever presented to any nation. It demands an efficient national organization directed by the best intelligence that our manufacturing, business, professional and civic bodies can produce.

The bugle call of mobilization towards this end has been sounded by Sir Geo. E. Foster, who proposes a convention of the business men of Canada to be held during the coming Autumn with the object of arriving at a practical line of procedure. Just as national history is being made by our men on the battle fields of Europe, so our future national welfare lies in the policy and its efficiency adopted at this time. In his appeal for concerted action which calls for devising means of bringing about commercial preparedness on the part of the 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, the Minister of Trade and Commerce asks: Will our steel industry, our textile industry, and all our great industries, our transport corporations, our banking people, our agricultural and lumber and fishing and mining interests, our engineering, chemical and scientific research associations—in a word, all our lines of production, natural and industrial, our labor associations, and our educational institutions take up and canvass and work out their ideas along the line of this question? And to do this effectively, will each one of these interests in this time of great national need, take the trouble to get together a select number of their best and brightest representatives, who will make it their business to conduct a thorough examination and be ready to counsel and advise their Canadian co-workers? And then, will they be prepared after such examination and thought to meet in the proposed convention, ripe in well-based conclusions, fertile in well considered plans, and ready for co-operation each with every other in one united, intelligent systematized national effort to increase production and capture our share of home and foreign markets?

Sir Geo. Foster has sounded a note of momentous import. It is up to the men of Canada to appreciate its significance and respond.

FRANK DARLING, LL.D.

In honoring Mr. Frank Darling by bestowing the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws at the recent convocation, the University of Toronto paid tribute, not alone to the eminent architect, but to the high position he occupies in the country as a public spirited man. Mr. Darling's work as a leader in the movement to secure adequate pensions for soldiers and their dependents bears evidence of a keenly sympathetic mind with the ability to take part in national affairs and the will to spend time and energy for the welfare of others.