

CANADA'S BUSINESS MEN TO MEET

Sir George Foster Will Summon Them Next Fall to Discuss Mobilization of Business Forces

The department of trade and commerce, Ottawa, proposes to convene a convention of the business men of Canada during the coming autumn to confer as to the best way of mobilizing the business forces of Canada to prepare for the period to follow the war. In his announcement of this convention, Sir George Foster says:—"The date draws continually nearer when this abnormal activity will cease, and the world, and Canada along with it, move back towards normal. This 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 country-sides, 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.

Problems to Solve.

"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.

Trade and Economic War.

"Rebounding from two years and more of the most destructive and wasteful war of history, the world will then plunge into a trade and economic contest in which forces will assume totally new alignments, when competition will be keener and stronger than ever, and when science and organization will play a leading part in any successful role. For this struggle Canada must gird up her loins and make ready her full equipment of preparedness. She has the advantage over many other countries in richness and abundance of resources, in geographical world position, in vigor of race and in robustness of intellectual and moral fibre, while hope, verging on pronounced optimism, is an abiding and stimulating force with our people.

"In the two years of war activity our iron and steel manufacturers for instance have set aside much of their machinery used in peace times, and installed in its place machinery adapted to war purposes—have organized and co-operated and systematized for war work and in doing so have learned valuable lessons in accuracy of finish and regularity of output, and directive efficiency which should

prove a valuable asset for the future. But in the process they have discontinued the old business and lost the old customers. So with many other lines of manufacturing connected with war activities. Work has been provided by governments, been fairly forced upon manufacturers by governments, and been paid for by governments without trouble to the manufacturers, of travellers, or representation, of the initiative and organization involved in soliciting peace orders. A habit of receptivity has thus been formed which will have to be unlearned when the bells of peace ring out. Then governments will largely recede as feeders and providers. Each manufacturer will have to seek business for himself—put back the old peace machinery or adapt the new war machinery to peace production and betake himself to the old peace methods of hunting up business, but then, let it be remembered, in an atmosphere hot with the keenest competition. Are we thinking out now what we will do then, and how we will do it?

What of the Future?

"The question which it seems to me each should face is this: 'What will be the situation as regards our industry in Canada when the war ends and how can we best meet it?'

"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 great 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?"

BRITAIN'S DAYLIGHT SAVING ACT

The following are the provisions of the daylight saving act of Great Britain:—

1. "During the prescribed period in each year in which this act is in force the local time in Great Britain shall be one hour in advance of Greenwich mean time.

2. "This act shall be in force in the year 1916, and in that year the prescribed period shall be from two o'clock in the morning, Greenwich mean time, on Sunday, the 21st May, until two o'clock in the morning, Greenwich mean time, on Sunday, the 1st October, and His Majesty may in any subsequent year, by order-in-council made during the continuance of the present war, declare this act to be in force during that year, and in such case the prescribed period in that year shall be such period as may be fixed by the order-in-council.

3. "Wherever any expression of time occurs in any act of parliament, order-in-council, order, regulation, rule, or by-law, or in any deed, time-table, notice, advertisement, or other document, the time mentioned or referred to shall be held, during the prescribed period, to be the time as fixed by this act:

"Provided that where in consequence of this act it is expedient that any time fixed by any by-law, regulation, or other instrument should be adjusted, and such adjustment cannot be effected except after the lapse of a certain interval or on compliance with certain conditions, the appropriate government department may, on the application of the body or person by whom the by-law, regulation, or other instrument was made or is administered, make such adjustment in the time so fixed as in the circumstances may seem to the department proper, and if any question arises as to what government department is the appropriate government department, the question shall be finally determined by the treasury.

4. "This act shall apply to Ireland in like manner as it applies to Great Britain, with the substitution, however, of references to Dublin mean time for references to Greenwich mean time.

5. "Nothing in this act shall affect the use of Greenwich mean time for purposes of astronomy or navigation, or affect the construction of any document mentioning or referring to time in connection with such purposes as aforesaid."