

THE CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BOARD OF TRADE BUILDING
MONTREAL

W. McF. Clarke

September 29th, 1932.

Sir Arthur W. Currie, G.C.M.G.,
Principal and Vice-Chancellor,
McGill University,
Montreal.

Dear Sir Arthur Currie:-

Economy in Public Finance

No doubt you have seen recent references in the press to the launching of the work in connection with Economy in Public Finance. The first release prepared by Mr. W. Sanford Evans, and surveying the trend of our debts, a copy of which has already gone forward to you, was presented to the Halifax Convention of The Canadian Chamber of Commerce. Other constructive papers were there read by Dr. H. L. Brittain of Toronto and by the Hon. Gordon Scott of Montreal dealing respectively with Municipal Taxation and Provincial Tax Burdens.

These addresses were very favourably received and this impression has been confirmed by interviews which Mr. Evans had this last week with a number of business leaders both in Montreal and Toronto. So far as I can judge from press clippings, the opening of our campaign has been well featured in the news and editorial columns of the daily papers.

Mr. Evans has returned to Winnipeg and is now preparing suggestive and arresting statements which will be transmitted to the members of the Committee and released to the public. The aim is to get as much educational publicity as is practical before the end of the year. Mr. Evans, consequently, is devoting all of his time to this work. Toward the first of 1933 legislatures will be meeting and it is to be hoped by that time legislators and municipal councillors will realize that business is keenly alive to the necessity of practising Government economy.

To assist Mr. Evans, working Provincial Committees are to be set up. More detailed research can thereby be accomplished and a more intimate and greater interest aroused provincially.

The Canadian Press has promised their full support and with their co-operation we shall be able to reach a wide reading public. I might further add that it is expected that some of the Canadian and Service Clubs will be addressed by speakers who can ably present the story of mounting Government costs.

It seems better, rather than call the members of the Committee together at the present time, to proceed along the lines indicated above and probably before the end of the year to have a meeting of the General Committee. The members should then be able to consider recommendations and if the meeting were held in Ottawa, for instance, they could at the same time place before the Cabinet any definite proposals which would meet with the acquiescence of the Committee.

I shall be keeping you informed periodically of the progress in the work, and in the meantime may I ask you to let me have at our National Headquarters any views which you desire to express concerning the shaping and development of our programme.

Yours very truly,

W. L. McGregor,
Chairman of the National
Committee on Public Finance.