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Reconstruction Period in B.C.

The world is faced with a problem second only in importance to the war that has just ended so gloriously, an economic trans-formation from War to Peace. We are on the threshold of a new era and its peaceful solution is engaging the attention of the ablest statesmen of all nations and calls for the earnest co-operation of capital and labour in solving many of the problems and difficulties of readjustment and the need of co-operation for the common good.

That we are in for a period of falling prices from the high altitude reached by commodities during the necessities of the war, is obvious, and with it, for a time at least, lower wages and possible unemployment must follow the return of millions of soldiers to civic life, where their energies will be directed to industrial work instead of war, and, by increasing the supply of goods, thereby lower prices from the present war-inflated heights, bearing them to be regulated by the economic principals of supply and demand.

The basis of Canada's prosperity is her agriculture and fisheries. Her lumber and mines supply the raw material for her home market and export trade. As a manufacturing country she suffers disadvantages as compared with other nations possessing more skilled labour and cheaper means of production. Our immediate concern is the effect of the reconstruction period in British Columbia and the many that it is liable to affect in our future prospects. It is held, and with some reason, that Vancouver and British Columbia in general, will be the least affected province of the Dominion, for the reason that her trade in the war, having benefited but little by war industries (apart from shipbuilding, which came late, and exercised at once a material improvement in employment and circulation of money). For a time it is expected that shipbuilding will hold, but its permanency is doubtful,