

PROGRESS IN WORK OF THE  
NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY IN PUBLIC FINANCE

May 1st,  
1933

1. The National Committee on Economy in Public Finance of some forty-five representative business men, was appointed last September under the auspices of The Canadian Chamber of Commerce. Mr. W. Sanford Evans of Winnipeg, President of the W. Sanford Evans Statistical Service and Dr. H. L. Brittain, Director of the Citizens' Research Institute, agreed to undertake the special research work.
2. Not only was the subject of sound financing in Governments featured at the Halifax Convention of the Canadian Chamber in September, but during the last six months addresses have been given by outstanding leaders in Canadian business before Canadian Clubs, Service Clubs, Annual Meetings of various commercial associations in all the provinces of the Dominion.
3. Ten special monographs have been prepared by Mr. Evans on various phases of debts, public expenditures, taxation and the Railway Situation. Seven of these monographs have been published in booklet form and some ten thousand copies of the pamphlet distributed to members of the Federal and Provincial Parliaments, the Banks, the Trust and Insurance Companies, leading Canadian firms, Boards of Trade and Chambers of Commerce, and to a large number of other business men.
4. More than 350 columns of newspaper support across the Dominion have been given to these releases including some 100 columns of favourable editorial comment. Canadian Business, the official magazine of the Canadian Chamber with a ten thousand circulation has carried two special articles on Economy in Public Finance, while the National Home Monthly with a circulation of 200,000 had in its February number a specially prepared article on this subject by Mr. Evans. Other trade magazines have in some of the larger Canadian centres carried month by month the releases of the National Committee.
5. Provincial Committees under the auspices of the National Committee have been organized in the provinces and local Boards of Trade and Chambers of Commerce have also been surveying their municipal finances in a large number of centres.
6. The annual addresses of the Presidents and General Managers of the Banks and Insurance and other national Companies have generally referred to the necessity for public economy and innumerable references have been made to the facts as collated by the National Committee.
7. The co-operation of the Provincial and Federal Governments has been specifically sought and secured. The Prime Minister of Canada in writing the Chairman of the National Committee last December said:  

"I congratulate you most heartily upon the very successful efforts you are making in dealing with the problems of the expenditure of public monies in the Dominion. It will be difficult for us to survive unless the most rigid economy is practised by the Federal Government ... With all good wishes for your continued success in the field in which you have given such constructive service, I am.."
8. Provincial budgets as brought down for 1933-34 show a decrease in estimates for the new year at some \$24 million. Economies in the Federal Budget for 1933-34 total at present another \$24 million.
9. Public meetings have been held in some fifty centres of Canada during the last two weeks under the auspices of the local Boards and Chambers, endorsing the recommendation of the Canadian Chamber that further drastic economies at Ottawa should be made.
10. There is an evident growing public opinion demanding retrenchment in Government expenditures.

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