

Imports cannot be stopped wholly. As we are accustomed to live, we cannot do without many things that must be imported; but supposing we should force ourselves to dispense with them, what would then become of much of our internal trade, and the multitudes dependent on it as importers and distributors with their clerks and helpers, their warehouses and shops? And could we reasonably expect to sell abroad what we have to export if we did not reciprocally buy from exporters there? Exchange is the very life of trade.

## II.

Our main resource must be to increase our exports. We have doubtless very valuable natural assets of one sort and another undeveloped everywhere in Canada, that might have been well forward in development by now if our chief attention had not been absorbed in speculative dealing with the land alone; and there is this land at any rate, which with a similar undivided attention given to its proper use might have been soon made to produce enough to make up the deficiency in our exports.

To do this effectually now must take as many years as have already been wasted. Our towns are full of unemployed workers, from causes anterior to and quite independent of the war, while our fields, nine-tenths of them, are lying idle. The owners of much of this vacant land are said to be holding it for prices that no one can afford to pay; and this keeping it from development cannot be prevented. However much a State may need the produce of its lands (as we do now), it cannot expropriate what is private property for cultivation by the people, nor confiscate any part of its value. It has been proposed to tax vacant, or what is called from non-use, "waste" lands particularly, and there might seem to be a rough sort of justice in this where the lands are held for long in the hands of mere speculators; but such partial confiscation must certainly affect others besides these. We cannot discriminate against some only of any class of property owners, however blamable, without injuring others whose holdings have been earned or otherwise fully paid for. Many thousands of acres in the three provinces are held by English investors who paid too high a price for them in the western land "boom," and now cannot sell them at all. When we mulct them further by a special tax we penalise English investments in this country. Property owners cannot be attacked particularly in any one direction without