

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?

“The object of this appeal is to challenge attention, to evoke thought and devise means to bring about industrial and commercial preparedness.

“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 labour associations, and our great educational institutions take up and canvas 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?

“And then, will they be prepared, after such examination and thought, to meet in the proposed convention ripe in well-based conclusions, fertile in well considered plans, and ready for co-operation each with every other in one united intelligent, systematized national effort to increase production and capture our share of home and foreign markets?

“If, for the next two or three months, spade work like this were carried on, the succeeding convention should be made an epoch in the economic and industrial development of Canada.

“This is the nation’s own work, a reconstructive work greater even than the work of war. Shall we take it up in dead earnest and prove ourselves equal to the task?”

GEORGE E. FOSTER,
Minister of Trade and Commerce.