

On the other hand, our share of the federal debt, our provincial and municipal obligations and all our other taxes amount to quite a sum for a new country. We rest, for the future, on the wealth of our resources, of which various prospectus assert that they are inexhaustible. But what is the use if we do not work them?

How often have I heard Europeans say that people in this country do not till the soil, but merely scratch it a little, relying, for the rest, upon the natural fertility of the land and upon Providence ! (1)

It is true, Gentlemen, that pessimism begets no good. But it is time to consider our present position and see if we Canadians are not sowing the tempest, only to reap the whirlwind ?

It would seem that, in our disdain for good old mother Earth, we have waded chin-dip into very troubled and dangerous waters !

In the face of such a serious problem, I am confident that the Chambre de Commerce du district de Montréal "will do something". I hope it will proceed with the aggressiveness it has shown from the very beginning of this economic and financial crisis, in order to defend and promote the interests of Canadians and those of all their Allies, for whom we all have the warmest sympathy and the deepest admiration.

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(1) We use, as an average, 3 pounds of chemical fertilizer per acre, to be exact, 2.68 pounds! Which shows what kind of farming we are doing on our sparsely populated lands.