

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, SAINT JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1925

# SIR THOMAS WHITE DISCUSSES CANADA'S ECONOMIC POSITION

## Boards of Trade Told Need For Body to Disseminate in Canada Understanding Towards Unity

Harmony Sought Throughout Country to Make Dominion Best Land for Strong People in Attaining Prosperity and Happiness

WINNIPEG, Nov. 16.—In an atmosphere charged with patriotic fervor, in the magnificent legislative buildings of Manitoba, the historic conference of Boards of Trade and Chambers of Commerce, which the Chairman S. B. Gundy of Toronto, Canada since confederation, listened today to a momentous message of national import from Sir Thomas White, a remarkably comprehensive and brilliant address on immigration, by John M. Imrie of Edmonton, and a most informing address by Agent General Noxon of Ontario on conditions in Great Britain and the prospects for getting immigrants from that country.

The high note struck by the chairman in his opening remarks was taken up by Lieut.-Governor Atkins of Manitoba, Premier Bracken and Mayor R. H. Webb in their welcome to the visitors from coast to coast.

**ADDRESSES DEBATED.**  
Tonight there was a general and intensely interesting discussion of the addresses of Sir Thomas White and Mr. Imrie. It had at first been decided not to have evening meetings, but when the magnitude of the conference was realized as delegates poured from east and west, and the intense interest of every one of them was manifest, the program committee decided on evening meetings both today and tomorrow.

**MARITIMES AT LUNCHEON.**  
The Maritime delegation met at lunch time and with W. S. Fisher as chairman decided that J. D. McKenna will present the Maritime case tomorrow and F. Macleure Schlanders spoke for the Maritimes this evening in the discussion on immigration. On invitation of F. R. McMillan, of Saskatoon, the Maritime men dined in a private room in the Fort Garry with him and several other Western men who wanted to set forth the case for the Hudson Bay Railway and Port Nelson development. A very interesting discussion was held and much light thrown on the attitude of the Prairie Provinces on this question. L. W. Simms stoutly presented the case for full consideration of the Maritime resolutions before the committee of which he is a member.

### Sir Thomas' Speech

Sir Thomas, after a few preliminary opening remarks said:  
"The subject which you have committed to me for exposition is as follows:  
"Canada's Present National and Economic Position."

"It is proposed that this be a survey in broad perspective of the present situation from such standpoints as population, trade, debt, taxation, national and international spirit and those factors in our present situation from such standpoints as confidence in our future and that should serve as a challenge to the conference. I shall give the best of my knowledge and means of promoting Canadian unity and development."

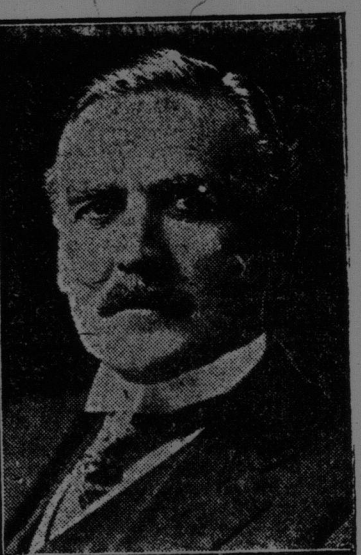
### WHOLE RANGE COVERED

"That is a pretty large order. It covers a wide range of our national life. Reading between the lines it is apparent to me that it is suggested that my address should be of a nature leaning at least to the side of optimism. I have always been of the opinion that it would be difficult indeed for me to be other than confident as to Canada's future. That is because I believe that Canadian ability, Canadian energy, Canadian patriotism will always prove adequate to the solution of Canada's national problems. The period since 1920 has been an exceedingly trying one. The war caused inflation, the world has been going through the period of deflation. The war caused dislocation of business and industry. Business and industry have been going through the period of readjustment. History repeats itself. The economic experience of Europe has been in many respects that of Canada after the Napoleonic wars. The economic questions which agitate Britain today are similar to those of the years following Waterloo. Ours, since the armistice, may be more nearly likened to that of the United States after the War of Secession. Currency, tariff policy, traffic rates, Congressional blocs, cooperative production and marketing enterprise, cost of living, industrial unrest—these were the problems and issues of the period succeeding the close of the Civil War. The parallel is almost complete.

### PRESENT POSITION.

"In order that we may not be confused by post-war experience and may see our situation in proper perspective, I shall ask you to forget the whole of the war and the conditions which have arisen out of the war and consider our present position in the light of a general survey of the progress of Canada over a term of years. I shall be as sparing as possible of statistical figures, but some are necessary in order that you may have the picture before you for your subsequent discussions.  
"First, as to the country. There is no doubt it is large enough; in fact its great size provides many of our most serious problems. It is admittedly rich in resources, in agricultural lands, minerals, waterpowers, forests and fisheries. It has an unexcelled waterway extending halfway across the continent. It has been and is the problem of Canadians to develop this vast heritage. To this purpose an enormous amount of energy, ability and courage have been devoted. The problem since Confederation has been to join up the scattered parts of Canada and people and develop the whole. What is the stage of our progress today? We set out to create a great nation upon the northern part of this continent. How far have we succeeded in our efforts? Let us consider first our population. In 1801 it was five

### Addresses Parley



SIR THOMAS WHITE  
Former Minister of Finance at Ottawa, who addressed the Boards of Trade Conference at Winnipeg yesterday on "Canada's Present National and Economic Position."

should seek too readily by all reasonable means in our power.  
"I have dealt in a general way with the population, wealth, trade and production of Canada. It is now necessary to consider the other side of the balance sheet—to consider our liabilities and their annual charge. This is the main problem before us. It is in this respect that our statistics show retrogression instead of progress. We are not as we were a few years ago. Our tax bills tell us that. And the same may be said of all other nations, especially those which participated in the war, as we did, from the beginning. The enormous expense of our military operations, the inflation during the war and the deflation since, the impoverishment of Europe and its diminished buying power, the disruption of trade and dislocation of industry—all these factors have produced the problems with which the whole civilized world has been struggling for years and is struggling today.

### DEBT OF CANADA.

"The net direct public debt of Canada is two billion, three hundred million dollars. In ten years it has increased sevenfold.  
"In dealing with the question of the public debt and the taxation necessary to meet the annual charges connected with that debt, there should be added the debt of the several provinces and municipalities throughout the Dominion. The aggregate net direct debt of the provinces has been estimated at six hundred and fifty million dollars.

### INTEREST PAID IN CANADA.

"With respect to the debt of the Dominion it should be kept in mind that by far the greater portion is owed to our own people who subscribed for our Great Victory and War Loans during the war period, and for refunding issues since that time. The same may be said of the major part of our provincial and municipal indebtedness. The importance of this fact is manifest and requires little elaboration. The amount of interest upon the public debt, which is paid by the people of Canada as a whole, to our own nationals, is expended or invested by them, and thus is not lost to Canadian trade and development as is the case where interest is paid upon that portion of the debt held by investors in United States or Britain. From the national standpoint the difference between a debt held domestically, and the same amount of debt owed externally, is a matter of degree, and the same amount of debt owed externally is a matter of degree, and the same amount of debt owed externally is a matter of degree.  
"An estimate of our national wealth was made as of 1921, at twenty-two billion dollars, or \$2,200 per head of population. On the face of it this would seem excessive, but it appears to be about on a par with similar statistical estimates of some of the more prosperous of the United States. These comparative figures as to savings deposits, trade and national wealth may be misleading. Unless carefully qualified by a consideration which I shall now mention, they may give rise to a quite unwarranted feeling of extreme satisfaction. We must bear in mind that the dollar is a counter-denominator—that its real value is not a fixed quantum, that it fluctuates in terms of property and commodities which are the real wealth of the nation. The purchasing power of the dollar which on this continent is on a gold basis, has greatly depreciated during the past twenty-five years. The purchasing power of the dollar today, that is to say, its real value, has been calculated to be about forty-five per cent of what it was in 1900, and about twenty per cent of what it was in 1910. Forty-five cents in 1900 would purchase as much as a dollar will today. When, therefore, we are considering these statistical figures of national progress since the beginning of the century, we must bear in mind, the record is still most encouraging and evidences solid and substantial growth on the part of the Dominion over the period to which I have alluded.

### RATE OF PARTICIPATION.

"Although each of the provinces has shared in this remarkable progress, the rate of participation has been far from uniform. The Prairie Provinces show the greatest ratio, as would be expected from the tide of settlement which flowed into them, while the Maritime Provinces appear to have participated to the least relative extent. They also show, owing to migration, the least proportionate advance in population. This means that these provinces and their fine people have for some reason been at a disadvantage, which we

allude and upon which I trust we may find common ground for agreement. I refer to the subject of immigration. This country has a railway plant far beyond its immediate requirements. Its daily operation it serves all parts of the Dominion. Its capital investment has been made and interest is being paid upon that capital. Owing to our sparse population we cannot furnish enough business for that railway plant. Its capacity, without further capital investment, is much greater than its present employment. If we could employ it to anything like its capacity, our railway deficit would disappear, and we might have a surplus in its place. Our greatest financial problem would be at an end. And both agriculture and business would enjoy lower traffic rates. I might say something similar respecting our manufacturing plants throughout Canada. They require a greater volume of production. Part of the plant is really not in use, although all may be in partial operation. This no doubt results from the war period and the two years of inflation following the Armistice. What we greatly need in Canada like this is a steady and constant flow of production. If we can accomplish this within a reasonable time we shall see our way through

our economic difficulties. Our railway problem will be solved, and our taxation eased. And we shall also be able to promote interprovincial trade by contracting, through adjustment of traffic rates, the breadth of Canada as to reduce the geographical distances and physical barriers which now separate its component parts. Ever our effort should be to narrow our gaps and lower our mountain walls.

### MARITIME PORTS.

"I observe with pleasure that you are to discuss the greater utilization of our Maritime ports. The sum lost annually to Canada through transportation by foreign routes is very great. Anything that can reasonably be done to retain for Canada the value of this service will promote our internal and external trade and ensure to the advantage of the whole Dominion."

### Mr. Imrie's Speech

Creation of a commission composed of the Dominion's ablest men to carry out a "bold and courageous" scheme of immigration and colonization formulated by the Federal Gov-

ernment was urged in the address given by J. M. Imrie.  
"One of the chief objectives of a courageous National policy would be the early systematic and intensive colonization of the Dominion's vacant land through selected immigration on a large scale and the repatriation of former Canadians and their descendants now living in other countries. Nothing less would serve so quickly and so effectively to restore the confidence of our people and the confidence in Canada of the people of other countries."

"To meet the burden of a huge per capita debt, a high tax levy, high freight rates on many commodities, heavy annual deficit on the National Railways, to reduce the cost of manufacturing and distribution, the building up of a permanent population to a point at which it could reasonably support systems of government and transportation, the chief remedy is immigration."

### SOURCE IN BRITAIN.

"In the United Kingdom the pressure of population and the growth of unemployment have led many to contemplate emigration and the state to offer financial aid in immigration to the overseas dominions."

If Canada is prepared to meet the financial requirements of this situation, we can secure from this source a large supply of people possessing adaptability for farm life, although in many cases without capital to purchase land and equipment."

### BETWEEN TWO EVILS.

"No one is more opposed than I to paternalism. But it is a case of choosing between two evils. Our present national situation is unbearable permanently and increased population cannot be secured in the necessary quantities without financial aid to many settlers. Until the character of the new policy has finally been approved by parliament its administration should be entrusted to a commission composed of some of the ablest men in Canada, who have given unquestionable evidence of their organization and executive ability and their fitness by experience and temperament for this work. They should stand between the Federal Government and those to whom loans are made."

## MAN IS GASSSED ON TOP OF CHIMNEY

Was Found Hanging With One Leg Inside and One Outside Stack

BIRMINGHAM, England, Nov. 17.—While working on the top of a chimney-stack, 100 feet high at the General Electric Works, Witton, near here, a young steeplejack, Harold Edgington, was gassed and had a miraculous escape from death. He fell with one leg inside the chimney and the other outside, and was unconscious when the Birmingham Fire Brigade rescue party arrived.  
Men with life-lines and slings ascended the steeplejack's narrow ladder and applied artificial respiration. As it was dark a searchlight was brought into play, and the man was gradually lowered in slings to the ground.

### Mah Jong Sets

At Exceedingly Low Prices  
To Effect a Quick Sale

We find that our stock of this popular game is entirely too large, so we have put a number of sets on our counters in the Art Goods Department, "German street entrance," at the following attractive prices.

Sets originally priced \$1.25 for 50c set.  
Sets originally priced \$2.50 to \$3.75 for \$1 set.  
Sets originally priced \$5, for \$1.50 set.  
Sets originally priced \$7.50, for \$2.50 set.  
Sets originally priced \$10 and \$13, for \$3.75 set.  
Sets originally priced \$15 to \$25, for \$5 set.

Mah Jong Sets are just the thing for Christmas gifts, so make your selection early before the assortment becomes broken.

In addition we offer Mah Jong tile racks for use on an ordinary card table. Former prices \$6 and \$8, for \$1.50 set.  
All the above to be had in our Art Goods Dept., German St. The following at our Furniture Store, Market Square.

### MAH JONG TABLES

\$15.25 Tables for \$4.50.  
\$32.00 and \$35.00 Tables for \$9.

These are equally suitable for card tables and for use in playing various other games.

GAME TABLE TOPS for use on ordinary Card Tables. Being felt covered they will not scratch any table:  
Former price \$10, for \$1.50.  
Former price \$15, for \$2.50.

### MAH JONG TILE RACKS—Formerly \$6 and \$8.

Now \$1.50 set

Take advantage at once of these extraordinary offerings of Mah Jong sets, Mah Jong Tables and other accessories.  
This fascinating game makes an ideal Christmas gift for old and young alike.

### Beautiful Furs Neck Pieces and Coats

If you are cherishing the idea of a new Fur Neck Piece or a Fur Coat look carefully through our stock. M. R. A. Fur Gowns have been carefully chosen. Special care has been given to details of quality and workmanship that go to give lasting satisfaction.

ANIMAL SHAPE STOLE—A choice assortment to select from. The soft natural tone of a Silver Fox will harmonize beautifully with your frocks and wraps. Then there is the Amber Fox, Black Fox, Beige Fox, Natural Blue, Cross Fox, Grey and Beige Wolf.

Children's White Thibet Collars in two different sizes.  
Infants' white and grey goat robe Pockets. Also white Thibet Pockets.

Beautiful Fur Coats of Hudson Seal, Clossy Persian Lamb, Durable Muskrat, Jaunty Iceland Beaver and many other Coats in the season's latest and most approved styles.  
(Fur Dept., 2nd floor.)

### COMMENCING WEDNESDAY MORNING

### Another Sale of Winter Coat Cloths at \$1.50 yd.

The demand for Coat Cloths last week was so great that many people were too late in coming to secure the desired color. We are giving you another opportunity.

In this Sale will be many heavy Tweed Coatings, as well as Navy Polo Cloth, Novelty Coating and other desirable cloths. Width 56 in.  
(Dress Goods Dept., ground floor.)

### New Linens at Bargain Prices

Hand-made Madeira Napkins—Good value at \$8.75  
Satin price \$6 a dozen  
Guest Towels—Italian hand embroidered. Sizes 15x22.  
Special price \$1  
Irish Embroidered Pillow Cases in pure linen. Size 45 in. \$4 pr.  
Pure Irish Linen Napkins of fine Satin Damask. \$6 and \$7 a doz.  
Real Hand-made Madeira Handkerchief Cases. Sale price—75c and \$1.50 each  
(Linen Room, ground floor.)

### Many Uses For "Princess May" Yarns

See our Display of Hand Knitted Garments this week in Trimming Section.  
Gloves, Golf Hose, Child's Knitted Suit, Bonnet, Jersey, Sweaters, Etc.

These garments have been made to show the different ways these yarns may be used.

Princess May Fingering—1 oz. balls, 20c.  
Princess May Floss—in skeins, 13c.  
Princess May Silver Wool—1 oz. balls, 30c.  
Princess May Andalusian—1 oz. skeins, 29c.  
Princess May Sweater Yarns—2 oz. balls, 32c.

Also we have Real French Angora, Brush Wool, Sea Gull Fingering, Opal, Iceland, Beaver, Saxony, P. K. Heathers and many others.

Here are all the materials for knitting from which very lovely gifts may be made.

If you have a baby on your list what could be more adorable than a little pink or blue knitted Sweater?

Books with instructions for making these garments. Knitting Pins and Crochet Hooks are all to be found.  
(Yarn Dept., ground floor.)

### The New Fashion Book

December, January issue is now on Sale in our Pattern Department.

This number contains many smart attractive designs for dresses suited for all occasions.

One very chic little model No. 4623, is made of broadcloth or fancy material with a very artistic little drape at the side of plain material. This comes in all sizes from 16 years to 44 bust.

Coats with side flare. Straight line Raglan Coats and all the newest designs in Doll Clothes and sleeping garments. Artistic Needlework.

Cross Stitch designs. Old fashioned quilting too has been revived. All these and many more interesting and useful suggestions will be found in—  
THE HOME JOURNAL PATTERN BOOK.  
(Pattern Dept., ground floor.)

### New Barrymore Axminster Rugs

JUST RECEIVED

These Rugs have excellent wearing qualities and come in beautiful soft color effects to harmonize with the furnishing and draperies of any room.

Size 6 ft. 9x9, \$28.50.  
Size 9x9, \$40.  
Size 9x10 ft. 6, \$45.  
Size 9x12, \$50.  
Small Mats and Hearth Rugs to match.  
(Carpet Dept., German street entrance.)

Manchester Robertson Allison Limited  
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