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TRADE AFTER THE WAR.

Sir George Foster's calling of a convention of the business men of Canada to meet next autumn for the consideration of ways and means of organisation of after-the-war trade and industry, constitutes in some respects a notable departure. It is not merely a recognition of the seriousness of the problems that are likely to arise after the war. It indicates a realization that the old go-as-you-please methods are not likely to survive successfully the great competitive pressure in trade or to be sufficient to meet the tremendous problems of repatriation and industrial settlement that will come following an agreement of peace. It has become clear that we have suffered in the past considerably through lack of organisation of the business forces of the Dominion. There has been organisation along lines of definite mutual interest, but little has been done in the way of co-operation on broad lines. The farmers in the West, for instance, have had their own organisations, but they have held aloof, until just lately, from the manufacturers, the financial and the transportation organisations. The manufacturers, who have been strongly organised among themselves, have similarly pursued a lone path. The bankers, the railways and the fire insurance interests have taken broader views, but their efforts have undoubtedly to some extent been nullified by the antagonism or indifference of others. The Government departments charged with furthering Canada's trade and industry and immigration, too, have not been altogether conspicuous for scientific method and co-operation. Is it too much to hope that the getting together of the cream of Canada's business men for co-operative effort in the solution of after the war problems will be accompanied by a stirring of the somewhat dry bones of Government departments at Ottawa?

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Without minimising the importance of Canadian manufactures, it may fairly be said that the most pressing problems in connection with after-the-war

trade and development calling for solution are those connected with land settlement and the development of our agricultural and other natural resources. A largely increasing and prospering population on the land and engaged in our lumber, fishing and mineral industries means, as Mr. Hebden, the general manager of the Merchants Bank, emphasized last week, an increasingly-important home market for our manufacturers. But to secure this increase in desirable population, it seems clear that there must be a considerable reform in our immigration policy. Hitherto, we have been content to accept almost anybody and everybody, with the result of an inordinate growth of cities in proportion to land settlement and national development. It seems that we should be justified after the war in a revision of policy looking towards the most liberal encouragement of desirable classes of immigrants and the discouragement, if not debarring altogether, of those whose previous occupations suggest that they are unlikely to take up in Canada, work that is congenial to the permanent development of the Dominion. Again, it is clear that liberal encouragement to desirable immigrants cannot cease when they arrive at Quebec, as it has ceased too often in the past. This question opens up a whole vista of problems, financial and social, which it is evident will require the most careful consideration. It may be said, however, that the C.P.R., with its "ready-made" farms and recent practical encouragement of scientific research, and the present "get-together" movement in the West of the business interests and the farmers seem to point the lines along which much may be done for practical and permanent development after the war.

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The possibilities of the after-the-war foreign trade of our manufacturers appear to depend to a considerable extent on the tariff arrangements which follow the war. Whatever those arrangements may be, however, it is probable enough that our manufacturers will find the task of making headway in world markets no easy one. "Already," re-

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