

**O**N the 4th of June last The Right Hon. Sir George Foster, Minister of Trade and Commerce, issued the following clear cut and comprehensive call to those interested in the development of Canada:

### **A CALL TO ACTION.**

"For nearly two years a colossal and far-reaching war has convulsed the activities and disturbed the avocations of the world, has destroyed an incalculable amount of accumulated wealth, killed and disabled millions of the world's best workers, abstracted millions more from beneficent productive work to provide munitions for the destruction of life and property, and involved the warring nations in expenditures and debts which pass the power of man to comprehend, the burden of which must remain for long years to cripple and restrict the progress of mankind.

"Though none can foresee the end of this war, yet the end must be drawing appreciably nearer and peace must eventually come. Until that time comes production will be largely abnormal, and every possible energy must be directed to the great purpose of preparing soldiers, providing munitions of war and supplies for its maintenance. The normal work of industry and productive power must, for the time, give precedence to war work.

"But the date draws continually nearer when this abnormal activity will cease, and the world, and Canada along with it, will move back towards normal. This transition period will, I believe, prove more grave and critical than that which marked the plunge from peace to war in 1914.

"In the belligerent world fully 20,000,000 adult men will lay down arms and flood back into the fields and factories, the cities, towns, and countrysides; whilst millions more will lay down the tools now being used in making war munitions and take up again the tools of peaceful pursuits, and still other millions, now engaged in the vast subsidiary services of the war, will be thrown out of employment and have to look for work in other lines.

"The change is obvious on a moment's reflection; but it needs the deepest and most serious thought to adequately sense the tremendous meaning of that change.

"In Canada we shall have our problems to solve, and it will tax the wisdom and energy of us all to bring about a successful solution.

"Therefore it becomes necessary for business men and men of knowledge and experience to begin an earnest study of the situation that must soon be faced.

"As one means to this end, the Department of Trade and Commerce has thought it wise to convene in the coming autumn a convention of the business