

THE TRADE OUTLOOK

That the apprehension of non-employment of large numbers of people as the result of the termination of the war, is producing the means to avert the stroke by preparedness, is drawn attention to by the Gazette in an editorial this week:

When war broke out there was general dismay, a nervous feeling that the bottom would drop out of business, and serious depression over-run the country. Fortunately, the anticipation of disaster was not realized. Instead of recession in trade and industry, there came unexampled activity, high prices, dear labour, and all the conditions which mark prosperity. Now that a long period of peace is again faced, there should exist not only firm confidence in the maintenance of industrial activity, but a determination to keep the wheels of commerce revolving, and labour employed, to acquire new markets and to speed the development of Canada's immense natural resources.

We are inclined to the view that the task is not so formidable as it sometimes represented. Canada stands in at least as favourable a position as any country in the world for the reception of population and the expansion of commerce. Her transportation systems are excellent and far reaching. She has abundance of fertile land unoccupied, vast forests, great mineral wealth, prolific fisheries, and has already reached no mean measure of manufacturing output. There is an adequate supply of capital to support enterprise. A people who can lend the Government \$700,000,000 in little more than a year is not lacking in financial resources; and, above all, there are the many projects of the Government to promote foreign and maintain domestic trade. Some little time, of necessity, may elapse before the transition from war to peace conditions is completed, and in this interval there will be a degree of unemployment, but it should be neither serious locally, nor widespread.

The return of 300,000 soldiers from overseas during the next twelve or fifteen months does not appear to us to present a difficult problem. A large proportion of these men will at once resume their former occupations on the farm, in the counting house, in the factory and otherwise. Practically all of them were in employment when they donned the uniform, and with most it will be a case of "as you were." Canada has had experience in handling a great influx of people in the immigration of quite recent years. In the four-year period, 1911-1914, there arrived in Canada nearly 1,500,000 new comers, to be exact, 1,452,631 persons, of whom 402,432 came in 1914. All these immigrants were readily absorbed without dislocation of the labour market, or the creation of distress of unemployment in cities and towns. They were of all creeds, climes and races; more than 35 nationalities were represented; and if Canada could digest so great an influx of people a few short years ago, surely she can take care of 300,000 returning soldiers, while at the same time transferring munition workers to new employment. Having regard to the ease with which a million and a half immigrants were absorbed, the difficulty of surmounting present problems of employment seems small indeed.

The will to prosperity can aid immensely in bringing prosperity. There is no place in the land for a pessimist. His influence may be harmful; assuredly it cannot be helpful. Those who would paint the outlook for Canada as blue, as an ex-

Minister of the Crown is reported to have done in a recent address, merely contribute to discouragement, to bring about the very condition they profess to lament. There is nothing "blue," either presently or prospectively, in the position of Canada. So far from that, the country stands on the threshold of great expansion. Her opportunity has come.

Never before has she occupied so conspicuous a place in world affairs, and if her people do not take full advantage of fortuitous circumstances they are unworthy of their great heritage. Agriculture, the foundation of prosperity, will take care of itself. Farmers for three and more years past have reaped profit from their toil, and the high prices of foodstuffs will continue for another year at least. The scarcity of farm labour should also cease in the adjustment of employment and return of the soldiers, many of whom went from the farm. There will be an immense market in devastated Europe for a great variety of products: lumber, steel, cotton, woollen, linen, leather and what not, and in those markets Canada should find customers. The Canadian Trade Mission, established in London, has for its object the participation of Canadian industries in repairing the ravages of war, or to cite the words of the Order-in-Council creating the War Mission, "The Prime Minister is also of opinion that such a commission might render important service generally in the purpose of securing for the agricultural and other productions of Canada their appropriate share in the markets of the world during the period of reconstruction."

The point to be emphasized is that Canada is prosperous and able to cope with the conditions created by the cessation of war. What is lost through the stoppage of munition orders can be recovered in other industries. The country faces a growing, not a contracting time. A lull there may be during readjustment and restoration of shipping facilities, but it will be only a lull. There is more business to be done in Europe than ever before, and Canada is well equipped in natural and manufactured products to acquire a due share of the trade.

CANCELLATION OF FIRE POLICY WITHOUT ASSURED'S KNOWLEDGE OR CONSENT

On the 15th instant, before Chief Justice Falconbridge, at Hamilton, Ont., the case of Mutchmoor v. Shunk was heard. John L. Counsell, counsel for plaintiff; Lucas, Rainey & Henry, Toronto, solicitors for the defendant.

The plaintiff in this action, D. A. Mutchmoor, placed \$8,000 fire insurance on his property with the defendant, who is an insurance agent, for a term of years. The defendant, the plaintiff alleges, renewed the insurance as it became due and on each occasion assured the plaintiff that he (Shunk) would see that the risk was properly carried. In the year 1917 the plaintiff had a fire, following which he ascertained that a policy in the Western Insurance company for \$1,400 had been canceled in the year 1916 without his knowledge or consent. The plaintiff sought to recover from Silas Shunk, the defendant, the sum of \$1,400 on the ground that the lapse of the policy and its subsequent loss to the plaintiff was due to the neglect of the defendant.

The action was listed for hearing by jury, but the chief justice decided to make it a non-jury case, and after hearing the evidence gave judgment for the plaintiff for \$1,400, the full amount claimed.