

tion of grievances and establish in every industry a permanent council of conciliation.

### Economy, Confidence and Expansion

No one who thinks can doubt that Canada like other countries will face a difficult situation when the war is over. We must retain our population if we are to bear without excessive strain the great burden that the war will have laid upon us. But if we are wise and farsighted we may enter through reconstruction into an era of national expansion and prosperity. Through the long war with France, Great Britain established her commercial supremacy. With the close of the Civil War in the United States began the era of American industrial expansion. The war of 1870 laid a load upon France which stimulated her people to thrift, industry, and scientific utilization of her raw materials. Necessity drives nations as it drives individuals to greater economy and exertion. Few countries have such rich natural resources as we have in Canada or such areas of fertile land. We may have trade preferences in British markets and probably priority of raw materials for the industries of the Empire. Doubtless, too, we shall have an Imperial organization of shipping which will give us advantageous connections with British and foreign markets. We have a great railway system built with cheap money which may prove to be a greater asset than we would now admit. It is legitimate that the natural resources of Canada should be developed in the national interest and that processes of manufacture should be carried to completion in Canadian factories. Too often we confuse loyalty to Great Britain with loyalty to the Empire. An industry in Canada or settlement in Canada is as valuable to the Empire as an industry or settlement elsewhere under the flag. If we ever doubted

this the war is a complete and final demonstration. During the first years of peace we may have little immigration from the Old World owing to the congestion of shipping, but we shall have continuous immigration in greater or lesser degree from the United States. It will be necessary to adjust immigration to conditions and with greater regard to national cohesion and national character. But the land will bring people as raw materials of manufacture will bring industries if we make the national welfare the supreme concern in legislation. We may not forget that when the war is over the United States will have a great commercial fleet and industries organized for export trade, not inferior to those of any other country. We, too, must continue to build ships and organize our industries for greater and cheaper production. We must also as never before resist public waste and extravagance. It is my judgment that in the last 20 years we have wasted \$500,000,000 of public money in Canada. If waste was censurable before the war, it will be criminal after the war. But in a free country only a stern, active, energetic public opinion ensures economy in public expenditures. But primarily and chiefly we must organize to re-establish the soldiers in civil pursuits, to improve our position in world markets, to ensure that factories will not be idle and labor unemployed when peace comes, to stimulate agriculture by generous public support and the creation or expansion of industries closely related to production, and to maintain satisfactory relations between employers and employed. It is idle to deny that we face tasks of tremendous magnitude, but with organization, courage and confidence and undeviating devotion to the common national interest we can repair the ravages of war, reconstruct our industrial system, and build upon stable foundations a greater and happier Canada.