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## Production and Thrift Changed Economic Position

**Vancouver Speech of Sir Thomas White, Finance Minister, Shows Remarkable Change of Canadian Position as a Result of War and Due to Production and Saving.**

Sir Thomas White, Minister of Finance for the Dominion, who has been touring Canada in the interests of the forthcoming Victory Loan, spoke before a joint meeting of the Canadian Club and the Vancouver Board of Trade in the Hotel Vancouver on October 15th, on "Economic Position of Canada and Problems Awaiting Settlement." He laid emphasis on the economic position, problems of re-adjustment after the war, and the sense of unity that had been created in Canada by reason of the war. Sir Thomas pointed out that the war had shown the people of Canada not only its fighting ability, but had given it a sense of independence economically which it had not had before. Hitherto when industrial or any enterprise was started those in control had always gone to either the London or the New York market for financing. This was true not only of new business enterprises, but for Dominion, provincial or municipal improvements requiring large sums of capital. Since the war these markets have been closed to us, and Canada has shown herself able to look after her financial requirements in a way that could not have been anticipated.

The war has effected a deep change in the economic position of Canada which might be illustrated in the position of its export trade and its international trade. For instance, he pointed out, in the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1914, the exports totalled \$450,000,000. In the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1918, the exports totalled \$1,500,000,000. In 1914 the international trade of Canada was \$1,000,000,000, representing one-fifth of the trade of the Empire. Four years later the value of that total trade had increased to \$2,500,000,000. Looking on the changed situation from its domestic side, Sir Thomas pointed out that savings deposits in banks had increased over \$550,000,000. This must be viewed in the face of war loans totalling \$700,000,000, and the probable investment of over \$100,000,000 in provincial and municipal securities. The causes of these tremendous changes from the first year of

war to the beginning of the fifth year of war is due to production and saving. Early in 1915 Sir Thomas created the slogan of "Production, Production, Production." This slogan was somewhat changed later to "Production and Thrift." From these two causes, added to that of the increased value due to the war, this great transition is due. From a debtor nation we have passed to a creditor nation and are today advancing funds and credits for not only the financing of our entire domestic and international trade,

but are also furnishing for the Imperial Munitions Board credits with which to export Canadian products.

Sir Thomas showed the very valuable contribution which the Pacific Coast province had made to this change. He prefaced his remarks by a tribute to British Columbia in stating that he believed, and it was generally accepted, that British Columbia was the richest province in natural resources in Confederation. What was needed was capital, enterprise, and labor to make available these natural resources for the business of the province and the benefit of the entire Dominion. In the contribution of British Columbia, he showed that since 1914 the mineral production had increased over 50 per cent. to an amount exceeding \$36,000,000; that the forestry production had increased over \$20,000,000; and that the fishing industry had increased over \$14,000,000. Sir Thomas also paid a tribute to the production of ships in this Pacific Coast province. He stated that he had just recently come from an inspection of the Coughlan shipyard, and he was indeed

### The Duty of the Hour

It is imperative that Canada's 1918 Victory Loan should be well over-subscribed and even more successful than last year's. Firstly, because we cannot continue to do our part in the war without the required funds; secondly, because we cannot obtain those funds unless the national activities are maintained at high pressure; and, thirdly, because that end cannot be accomplished unless we finance the national activities which have such a vital bearing upon the international situation and the conclusion of the war.

It cannot be emphasized too frequently that the safety of our national structure and our participation in the war depends entirely upon the results of the 1918 Victory Loan.

Our prosperity during the past year was a direct result of the response to the loan issued last fall. The continuance of our prosperity during the coming year will depend upon the degree of success achieved by the Victory Loan of 1918. Common foresight makes it imperative that everyone should buy Victory Bonds.

proud as a Canadian to view this splendid example of what Canadian industry can do. British Columbia, he stated, was in a specially strong position for the building of ships, both of steel and wooden construction, and that he felt certain that the shipbuilding industry of the province would become a permanent industry. In this connection Sir Thomas pointed out that he thought he had something to do with the creation of a shipbuilding industry in Canada, because the Finance Department had granted the first credit of \$10,000,000 to the Imperial Munitions Board for the construction of wooden ships. From this order British Columbia had completed twenty-seven ships. For the building of all