

unpatriotic. If Canadians could accomplish the miracles that they have accomplished in manning, equipping, and maintaining the finest fighting machine on earth, as they have done, then Canadians can surely undertake to accomplish in the field of reconstruction and national development as mighty tasks as any other nation. If Canadian soldiers are willing to sacrifice their comfort, to sacrifice the welfare of their families, to sacrifice their health, their limbs and their lives—if they are willing to enter and to live in the very mouth of hell for three, four, or five years, to preserve their country and human freedom from destruction—then surely Canadian civilians ought to be able to make any sacrifice of prejudices, class or sectional interests, if by doing so there is a reasonable expectation that the prosperity of Canada may be restored and preserved, that the returned soldiers may find profitable employment, that the nation may be able to carry its load of debt without breaking, and that the country may develop into a mighty power and fully enjoy the blessings that the sacrifices of our armies have brought within our vision as a possibility, indeed, as a certainty, if we will put forth the effort necessary to attain them.

When the eastern newspaper calmly speaks of our natural resources guarding us against the dangers of after-the-war suffering, it appears to overlook the fact that our natural resources, undeveloped, are worthless. We may have the greatest mineral deposits on earth, yet, undeveloped, they are of no value. We may have forests of inestimable worth, yet so long as the trees remain uncut and unconverted into timber, and the timber unconverted into buildings, into ships, and into furniture, those forests are valuable only because they conserve the moisture. We may, indeed, have all the natural wealth that Divine Providence could bestow

upon us, and yet live in misery and die of starvation. It is natural resources, plus labor and skill in producing, manufacturing and marketing, that give us our wealth. So long as our natural resources lie dormant, they cannot sustain life, nor can they pay the debts of a nation.

Canada has everything that she needs to make her one of the most prosperous nations on earth. We require only a proper understanding of this by the Canadian people themselves; and then not only a willingness, but a determination upon their part, to make Canada such a nation.

The plan outlined in a necessarily somewhat general style by Sir John Willison, at least points out the way by which this worthy purpose can be accomplished. Let us not either condemn, deprecate or neglect this plan because some of its details are as yet unworked out. On the contrary, let every true Canadian who has the welfare of his country at heart put his efforts behind this patriotic movement and assist in working out those details, not for the advantage of any one class, or any one set of individuals, but for the common benefit of us all.

Every man can help with suggestions, advice and enthusiasm. We must not approach the problem with suspicion, distrust or jealousy. Such demoralizing agencies are not at work in the Canadian armies at war. They should not be less rigidly excluded from our councils at home, when we undertake to solve our domestic, international, industrial and commercial developments. United, confident, enthusiastic, we can accomplish everything that is worthy and that we desire. Dis-united, mistrustful and jealous, we can accomplish nothing but our destruction in the contest with trade rivals, whose ingenuity and enterprise have been stimulated in no less degree than ours ought to be stimulated by the lessons of the war.