

POST-WAR DAYS MUST BRING FULL EMPLOYMENT FOR ALL

#149 War i European 1939:

Dr. Cyril James Outlines Three Main Sections for Reconstruction

MONETARY POLICIES

Calgary, Aug. 19.—(CP)—Full and secure employment for every man and woman who desires it must be the central theme of post-war reconstruction policies in Canada, Dr. F. Cyril James, principal of McGill university, today told the Dominion Association of Chartered Accountants in annual convention here.

Spiritual Energy

"That is not a new idea, but I think its modern concept transcends the definition which was current before 1939," said Dr. James, who is chairman of the Dominion committee on reconstruction.

"We are not only concerned with providing employment in order that a man and his family may eat; we must find opportunities for employment which engage man's spiritual energy, which develop an esprit de corps, which encourage each individual to put forth his best efforts because he realizes that the work which he is doing is itself a contribution to the creation of a better society."

Dr. James said there were three main sections of reconstruction policy, which he defined as:

1. Policies dealing with that group of problems which is wholly within the powers of the Canadian people.

2. That group of policies in which the problems transcend national frontiers.

3. Policies in regard to that overriding group of problems which are international, in the sense that solution can only be attained by the co-operation of several of the leading governments of the world.

The first problem is maximizing the employment opportunities for each individual. Provinces should provide educational facilities adequate to enable each individual to find a job and keep it satisfactorily. Under the heading of employment opportunity, it is necessary to study plans for the provision of retirement allowances and sickness allowances, as well as measures affecting public health, so a man may retire and live in comfort at the end of his working career.

Continuing Assets

The proper program of utilization and conservation of the country's national resources would not only provide immediate employment when the war is over, but also preserve a continuing asset for the years to come, said Dr. James.

He suggested a program of publicly financed construction projects, such as the careful preparation of plans for housing schemes that involve new buildings and slum clearances and construction of dams and water power projects.

In the second group of reconstruction problems the first question is the relaxation of war-time controls which "involves thorny questions of political philosophy." Relaxation and reorientation of many controls is highly desirable but "it would be suicidal to abandon all planning and deal with each control in a haphazard fashion that must necessarily lead to chaos because of the interdependence of economic activities."

"We must adapt our own policies fairly closely to those of the United States and also keep in mind clearly the British policies and the developments in central Europe," he declared.

Dr. James said, as in the case of industrial rehabilitation, the effective solution of agricultural problems depends in large part upon the thinking and action of agricultural groups and individual farmers.

"I think there is more chance at the end of this war of attaining a working international economy among those countries which are the most important from the viewpoint of Canada's trade, than there has been at any time in the last 50 years," he continued.

It is going to require imagination, careful judgment, willingness on the part of industry and agriculture and of the electorate and government to look at international problems without prejudice and from all angles.

Post-war Balance Weight

Referring to the post-war monetary policy, he said while the gold standard has broken down "in building a new structure we are going to find that gold itself . . . is the most useful balance weight that we can find for international payments."

He said a probable development in regard to international capital movements will be a kind of international lease-lend on a peace-time basis whereby a country like Canada will supply goods to countries like Russia or China free of charge to build up a prosperous economy in the receiving country in the expectation there will be growing demand for Canadian manufactured goods.

"We shall fail to attain the ideals towards which we are groping unless every citizen of this Dominion, every professional association, every business enterprise, and every public authority plays its part conscientiously and with irrevocable determination," he declared.

Dr. James said there is clear recognition in Great Britain that the German nation as a whole must be decisively beaten and by thinking British people "the problems of reconstruction are regarded on a level far above the practical details of available physical resources and technical skills."