



WOODSTOCK BOARD OF TRADE

WOODSTOCK, ONTARIO
CANADA

February 3rd, 1943.

Members, Woodstock Board of Trade.

Gentlemen:

The report of the Secretary has covered in a very excellent manner, the activities of the Board of Trade during the year. May I, however, augment this report by some remarks of my own.

During the past year the Board of Trade and this community suffered a very great loss in the passing of two of its outstanding members. I refer to Mr. E. W. Nesbitt and Mr. Hampton C. Norry. Their years of service and achievement will ever be remembered by the people of Woodstock. Mr. B. C. Parker's health continues to improve slowly and we look forward to his return in the spring when he will again take the prominent place he has held for many years in the life of the community.

We are well in to the fourth year of the war and I am sure that I speak for everyone here in saying a few words of commendation of the achievement in war effort by the people of Woodstock. The war service work for the armed forces overseas, in the defence areas of Canada, and on the home front, has been magnificent. In 1942 more than \$60,000. was raised for this work which represents more than \$5.00 per capita.

I think it can be safely said, that there is no city in Canada with such diversified industry that has made such a relative increase in its productive capacity for war purposes with such a small

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increase in buildings, equipment, and services. Woodstock's industries readily changed over to war work and their contribution in that connection is very large.

The problem of winning the war requires our maximum attention and effort. We should, however, at this time give serious thought to *other* problems that confront us now and in the post war period. The Secretary, in his report made reference to the organized assistance given to the farmers of Oxford County during the 1942 harvest. Even with the bounteous crops of last year we experienced rationing of foods and indications are that more is imminent. The necessity for the greater production of crops and food stuffs is obvious. The farmers greatest need is man power. May I urge an all-out effort ⁱⁿ organizing every possible available assistance by the people, men and women, of this city to help our farmers in the production and harvesting of food.

To a greater extent we are giving thought to post war problems. Woodstock's re-adjustment from war to peacetime should not be as serious as some larger centres. There is no doubt, however, that there will be many serious problems to solve. ~~and~~ ^{and} in my opinion there should be no delay in creating an organization of our most able men and women to study these problems. Well conceived plans should be on the way before

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the war ends. Such an organization should contain in its membership representatives of labor, professional men, small business, various branches of Municipal Government and services, industry, and private citizens. Methods of suggesting, studying, and evaluating various projects that may be launched in the community to provide employment should be considered. All individuals, industrial and other organizations, and ^{public} spending bodies should be canvassed and reasonably definite plans should be prepared to cover projects that might be launched to help us through the period of re-adjustment. Such a committee, would by its study, be in a position to work in co-operation with and supply information to the national organization on post war problems.

I wish to take this opportunity to express to each and every Member of the Board of Trade and especially to Mr. Symons, our Secretary, my appreciation for the willing assistance and co-operation and confidence that has been extended to me as President. I also wish to say that it has been a pleasure to work with the City Council in considering many of our mutual problems.

James A. Vance,

President,

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Ottawa, December 20, 1945.

To: Employers of Canada

For the first time in over three years there is sufficient labour available to meet all reasonable demands. It is not anticipated that this situation will continue for long, as increased industrial and construction programs will be operating in the spring.

The present situation offers an opportunity to employers. Those who have been in lower labour priorities throughout the war can now obtain additional help. Those who can immediately expand their working force can now obtain adequate help. Present work schedules should be expanded to include an additional shift where this is warranted. The labour is available now and may not be there later on.

A large number of veterans have been demobilized and more are leaving the services daily. These men and women are the finest available material from which to build up your staff for the post war period. They are looking for opportunities to re-establish themselves in civil life. Your opportunity to obtain their services is immediate and delay will probably mean that once established, they will not want to change.

The National Employment Service of the Department of Labour is the clearing house where job opportunities and available labour meet. You are urged to immediately list your requirements for the next three or four months with the nearest local office where every effort will be made to refer to you applicants with the skill which you require.

We ask that you take advantage of this opportunity not solely in your own interest but also to assist in keeping employment in Canada at the highest possible level

C. D. Howe

C. D. Howe
Minister of Reconstruction and Supply

Humphrey Mitchell

Humphrey Mitchell
Minister of Labour

Letter to the employers of Canada urging the hiring of labourers and veterans - 20 December 1945