

not save us, as long as the whole world is bent on piling up the guns and ammunition, one nation against another.

It would, however, be poor policy at the present time to advocate anything like total disarmament. Humanity has travelled too far along the path of international bitterness and hate this last half century past, and especially since that darkest day that ever dawned in human history, the morning of the fourth of August, 1914. It is futile, therefore, to expect that we can retrace the whole distance we have covered during this time in the twinkling of an eye. All that we can do, it seems to me, is unitedly to set our faces in the opposite direction, and try every practical thing we can from now on to remove all existing causes of international mistrust and fear.

We are sometimes told that to talk about disarmament is merely to waste our time. But our discussion cannot be futile. Disarmament is not a phantom. It is the first definite step towards the goal for which we are all striving, the goal that is now clouded in the mists of selfishness and prejudice and tradition, but which in due time will be attained. Peace is the most practical subject to talk about in the modern world. Unless it permeates the thought of the world until war becomes unthinkable, the world is doomed to destruction. Its salvation is disarmament. Today the nations live in an atmosphere of fear, in a shadowy haze of insecurity. They are suspicious, one of the other. They seem ever to be on the alert, to be "standing to," as it were, each watchful of the other, as if expectant of a treacherous move. This attitude of fear must

disappear, and its disappearance will be hastened by disarmament. Because that cannot be immediate and complete does not mean that it can never come, or that we should not strive for its achievement.

Notwithstanding the views of pessimists and cynics, this world of ours is a world of progress. It is a better and greater world than the world of our fathers. With the years it has moved upward from the jungle, slowly, perhaps, at times, but nevertheless surely. Our task in this century is plain—it is to accelerate the world's progress towards peace, until the code of the tiger is a code of the past and harmony rules the hearts of men and nations. I am here today, and you are here, because we believe that disarmament is the greatest factor in bringing in that dreamed-of era of universal peace,—an era in which brotherly love and the spirit of neighborliness take the place of hate, an era in which the absence of arms eliminates fear and suspicion, an era in which the honours of the field of slaughter and the cruel and grievous aftermath of battle will be unknown, an era in which,—as it was hoped more than three hundred years ago,—

*"Each man will sit secure under his own
fig vine*

*And sing the merry song of peace to all his
neighbours."*

That is the task of the twentieth century. That must be our greatest contribution to the progress of the world. And that, gentlemen, is not an idle dream. It is a fact which can be realized by the nations of the world, working in harmony and in mutual regard and faith.