

WHEN Walter Lippmann was asked why, after writing for a liberal paper like the *New York World*, he consented to write for a conservative paper like the *New York Herald Tribune*, he said that he did not want to spend his days exhorting the saints; he wanted to convert the sinners. From what President Hibben has told me of the purpose of this meeting, I have the impression that my task tonight is to exhort the saints. Probably there are few doubters among us. Rather we have come together on this Armistice Day to renew our recollections of thirteen years ago, and to justify the faith that is in us.

We have been living through an amazing two years. Up until 1929 we here in the United States thought we had successfully isolated ourselves from the consequences of any industrial or economic mishap occurring in the rest of the world. We thought we had found a magic formula which would guarantee perpetual prosperity to America. We thought we could maintain our solvency and live in an international almshouse. We had drawn a fiery circle around the United States, and inside that circle we proposed to live a charmed and uncontaminated life.

But the Great Awakening has come. Now we know that around the world prosperity and depression keep the same rhythm and rise and fall together like the ebb and flow of the sea. We know that there are no good times that can be confined to one country and no bad times that can be permanently isolated. The law of cause and effect has been extended to operate over the entire planet and nothing of good or ill can happen in any corner of the world that will not ultimately have its repercussions here.

This of course is not a new phenomenon. Ever since 1776 when a man by the name of Wilkinson discovered a cylinder that made Watt's new steam engine really run, we have been adding to the propinquity of human life and building a situation in which time and space are compressed within a small compass and men are jammed ruthlessly together in a narrow world.