

neither wanting in aggressiveness. So that it is quite evident there is a most important work for the Commission to perform in connection with these waters. It gives me very great pleasure to say that its members are sensible of the great responsibility that rests upon them, and in dealing with our problems no evidence has yet been given of any question being approached from a national standpoint.

The Commission's difficulties will be great. It will have that breeder of international trouble, commercial interests, to hold in check. In our short experience we had before us a gentleman who made a head-long plunge at the constitution of the United States of America. (Laughter). But the constitution is still there, gentlemen, the bulwark of that great nation to the north of us. On another occasion we had one who gave every evidence of a desire to give the international boundary line such a jolt that it would find itself in pieces out in the waters of the Hudson Bay. Oh! the Commission's difficulties will be great, gentlemen. It will be called on from time to time to gather up sections of the boundary line scattered anywhere between the Gulf of Mexico and the North Pole. And it will make mistakes, because its members are human. It is only angels and those engaged in politics who never make mistakes (laughter); and some people are cruel enough to suggest that their spheres of action are, may I say, antipodal. (Laughter). The Commission is still in the experimental stage. The extent to which it will develop will depend upon the extent to which it gains the confidence of the two countries, and that depends upon the members of our tribunal.

I care not how important the work of any national organization may be. It cannot be compared to that of an international tribunal occupying a position between two nations, dealing in a reasonable, common-sense way with their differences, and with no thought of national advantage. And, gentlemen, of this I feel confident, the International Joint Commission is the forerunner of tribunals somewhat similar, that will yet be rendering tremendous services to humanity. If there would be anything to tempt me one hundred years hence to revisit Mother Earth, it would be to see the extent to which this method, this civilized method, of settling international questions has developed.

We are in the midst of a great world crisis. This war, gentlemen, is no accident. It is the outcome of international methods that are unsound. The machinery of the world for the past 30 years has been gradually thrown out of gear. Throw any machinery, little or great, out of gear, and what happens? Disaster. No nation, I repeat, can live unto itself, and in recent years those that have regarded themselves as civilized, through modern facilities for interchange of trade, have been living on the same front street. How long would the business of any front street proceed harmoniously if its occupants divided themselves into groups? They must band themselves together and have some general police system. But, gentlemen, that is another story—a story that will have to be discussed by the advance agents of the millennium. Therefore, I do not think I need take up any more time with it at present.

I will now pass on to "Some Phases of Public Service." By the