

uries. But they who care more for luxuries than for the winning of the war will, with equal certainty, continue to spend their money for luxuries.

When we used to read how Nero fiddled while Rome was burning we thought what an inhuman creature he was. Today the whole world is on fire. It is facing a greater disaster than that which threatened Rome when Nero fiddled. There are Neros among us who are thinking more about their own pleasure than about the present sufferings of the world or the greater disasters which threaten to overwhelm it.

If, instead of fiddling himself, Nero had hired others to fiddle for him, the case would have been worse. He would have wasted not only his own time but theirs as well when all were needed to save the city. Whether he hired them directly or indirectly would have made little difference so far as the ultimate result was concerned. Either method would have wasted man-power when every foot-pound was needed to put out the fire.

No one will doubt that when I buy something I am indirectly hiring some one to make it. If I buy something for my own pleasure or amusement I am indirectly hiring some one to please or amuse me. This is no better than to hire them to fiddle to me. No one would have blamed Nero for fiddling when there was nothing more important to be done. Neither could anybody blame me for hiring some one to please or amuse me under like circumstances. But when every foot-pound of man-power is needed to save the world from the greatest catastrophe which ever threatened it, I would be no better than Nero if I insisted on hiring men to make frills and luxuries for my own pleasure or amusement.

Any one who, in these days of impending doom, buys anything which he does not need for his own health, strength, or efficiency in the production of essentials is hiring some one to do something which is unnecessary. He is hiring some one to stay out of the essential industries. He is competing with the