

not one of them worth to the country the price of the copy of the daily newspaper in which they appear.

You have in this city of Winnipeg some of the best business minds in America, who probably are absolutely useless as debaters, consequently there is little room for them in Parliament—more's the pity. What would you say if you thought as I do that probably up to ninety per cent. of our men in public life are thoroughly tired and disgusted with it. If this statement is correct it simply means that we may be getting only about ten per cent. efficiency instead of anywhere from sixty to seventy per cent. from our public men. Many years ago one of Canada's most distinguished sons, a very prominent engineer, who in the first or second decade following confederation, had a seat in the House of Commons for several years told me that the mis-spent years of his life had been in Parliament. You may then ask—Why do men offer themselves for re-election? That I think is easily accounted for through the urgent demands of political supporters and that spirit of opposition—a determination to fight it out—which party tactics develop. Let us hope that there is a new era dawning for the public men.

Meanwhile, Gentlemen, the question now before us is, are we who remain at home going to play up with those lads who have gone forth, prepared to give up their lives for Canada? That is the question for each one of us to take home and ponder over. We live in a climate that will produce a virile people, and virility is synonymous with courage. It seems to me essential that we take a greater interest in our public men than we have been doing in the past.

Our tribulation as a self-sacrificing, free people will mean to us great fortitude and strength. And from those men who are daily looking death in the face on the battlefields of Europe, there will return to Canada a group that will become a force for great good in this land of their birth or adoption. We must realize that, in the refining process through which our men, and especially our women, are passing, this country will be greatly enriched in the character of its citizens. It is no idle boast therefore to add that Canada is now destined to be one of the countries to be reckoned with in the years to come. Our creed then as citizens must undergo some considerable change, and, Gentlemen, I have the fullest confidence in ourselves in this matter, provided we let our thoughts frequently pass from our individuals callings to that of our country. There is no more inspiring sight in the world to-day than that of the French people fighting with a single and unselfish mind for their beloved France.

Do we not see on all sides the awakening process that is visible in Canada. Our public men are thinking of the future—the building up of Canada—no country in the world possesses more inter-