

by men of soldierly spirit who are now in command. The spirit of the soldier is a just and honest spirit, and there is not now in the world a man powerful enough to obtain from Canadian Headquarters in London a concession or favour apart from the merit of his case. It is also a spirit which demands, and will have, efficiency, abhorring waste, practising economy in respect of material and of men. All this the Canadian people have accomplished, and in the present moment of perplexity these things are recited for their encouragement and comfort.

Why it was that this generation should have been called upon to bear this burden and suffer this chastisement, no man can tell. The decrees of God are inscrutable. War as well as peace is of God. There need be no complaint or bitterness. There is no complaint of the tides or the winds when they have brought havoc in human affairs; and the causes of war are as profound as the influences which move the ocean or obscure the face of the heavens. The atonement has fallen upon this generation, and the victim must not object to the sacrifice. Whether the Hebrew prophets were right or wrong in regard to private morality, of national sin there is no remission save by the shedding of blood.

The present difficulties in Canada arise from the attempt to do two things at the same time, to engage in war and carry on the life of peace. For the French and Belgians the problem was solved by war itself. War imposed upon those peoples its inexorable demand for exclusive service, but we have had to work by faith and imagination alone. We have not seen war face to face. We are wasting our energies in keeping up the top-hammer of civilization, which in Europe was brought down at one stroke.

The waste of war is only a figment. Even the waste of life assumes a reasonable proportion when we reflect that in any given generation the mortality is a hundred per cent. The waste of material is apparent rather than real. In time of peace most human effort is wasted on things that do not matter. In time of war that effort is merely transferred from