

is duly punished. Can it be reasonably said that when this offence is multiplied a thousandfold it is any less a crime? No one in his senses can pretend that offences of the kind we have mentioned can become any less essentially criminous because the offenders are more numerous.

The world knows what Belgium has been called on to endure. All the world knows that even at the very hour the crime was in process of perpetration a leading German statesman admitted that it was a wrongful act, but, forsooth, one for which reparation would be made! As if men who had been murdered in its perpetration could be recalled to life, or their violated honour restored to outraged women! No more horrible or brutal crime was ever committed by any nation on another than that committed by Germany on Belgium.

This outrage was the result of a deliberate scheme duly thought out and provided for and approved of, long before the war was started, by the ruler of Germany and his military advisers.

Can the civilized world at large ever condone such a grievous and abominable outrage? Can any reason be assigned why those who conceived and carried it into execution should not be brought to the bar of international justice?

There are some who seem to think that the laws of war exonerate the Kaiser and his statesmen and military advisers from personal liability for the acts done in carrying out their schemes—but the laws of war are designed for wars reasonably and legitimately begun and carried on; they can hardly be intended to regulate the acts of criminal violators of the peace of other peoples. The facts are that Germany had, as the German Chancellor admitted, no just ground for entering Belgian territory, and a state of war pretended to be created by the unjust invasion of Belgian territory was in the circumstances not war at all but a wanton outrage similar to that of pirates and robbers, and as far as Belgium was concerned it was simply the concerted inroad into its territory of an organized gang of murderers, thieves and cutthroats, and their acts and deeds were not acts of war or regulated by the laws of war, but by the laws that govern murderers, thieves and cutthroats. Having by unlawful violence invaded