

in these four years only the rudimentary application of methods and agencies unknown and undreamt of in the campaigns of the past. Science has in these matters not said her last word; she is still lisping the alphabet of annihilation. If she is to be diverted for another 20 years into the further elaboration of the mechanism and chemistry of destruction, we may as well pray for the speediest possible return of the glacial epoch".

What would he have said today in this era of hydrogen bombs and atomic warheads and intercontinental missiles?

The alternative was stated by Theodore Roosevelt, in these words:

"Scholarship that consists in mere learning but finds no expression in production, may be of interest and value to the individual, just as ability to shoot well at clay pigeons may be of interest and value to him, but it ranks no higher unless it finds expression in achievement."

The happy medium of compromise without the sacrifice of principle provides the answer to this as to all democratic problems.

We live in an age of crisis - an age in which the final human catastrophe has become possible. We think of our world dilemma as unique, and certainly with our technology of destruction - with our nuclear and thermo-nuclear bombs and our missiles - it is unique. It was announced today that there will be a meeting of nuclear experts of the United States, Great Britain, France, the U.S.S.R., Czechoslovakia and Poland.

In the global nature of the struggle for men's minds it is unique. But apart from this technology of destruction and the shrinking of our once vast world to a single neighbourhood, is the threat to our civilization as unique as we tend to think? Other civilizations have been destroyed, to be superseded by dark ages in which resurgent barbarism enveloped the world. These civilizations fell, not to superior forces, but to inner contradictions and spiritual decadence. Incapable of a positive response, they first lost their soul, and then life itself.

An age of crisis is an age of challenge - a spiritual struggle for the minds of men. Challenge can instill in a person, in a nation, in a civilization, a sense of expectation, of hope, even of exaltation in the possibilities of new achievements of the human spirit. It can also instill despair, and if despair should triumph, that person, that nation, or that civilization, is lost.