

spent one-fourth of this sum in organizing deputations of agriculturists, of scientific men, of educationists, of students of political economy and all of the various other interests of peaceful progress to visit Germany, France, Denmark, Belgium, Holland and other countries, to enter into closer communion with the people of these nations for the mutual increase of goodwill and for the increase of mutual knowledge, more could be accomplished for international peace than all these preparations for war. Such propaganda of practical peace would bring back a real return to this country in increased intercourse, enlarged trade and in immigration of the kind we are seeking, rather than the indiscriminate invasion to which we are now subjected—an invasion which is certain to create grave perils in the near future.

This does not mean that Canada should stand aloof while danger threatens the Empire. In fact we cannot remain neutral and belong to the Empire. When war comes we may show the white flag, but we cannot hide the country under a barn, and we may be sure the white flag would not be respected when hoisted by a people who showed the red flag the day before the war. Canada, as an alternative, might seek the shadow of the Monroe doctrine—in that case in the shadow she would remain. This much seems certain—the power which could destroy the navy of Britain would not remain in dread of the navy of Canada.

The sea belongs to the world and its defence, therefore, if any defence is needed, is an international fleet, part of whose mission should be police work and for the relief of distressed vessels or distresses on distant coasts. Canada's war policy could well be limited to the defence of her own soil by her own people. There is no one so blind that he cannot see a danger to the world in the increase of naval armaments. Then why should Canada contribute an extra brand to the materials of this conflagration? Would it not be braver to take some risk to remove the lighted fuse?

Let us not be deceived: even united Anglo-Saxondom cannot "impose" peace on the world. Peace is the logical outcome of good-will, not of physical force. Brute force is a steadily diminishing power in international relationships, and co-operation is taking its place. Canada will achieve a unique distinction among the nations if, discarding the weapons that have brought so much misery into the world, she determines not to be overcome of evil but to overcome