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impossibility, because in the last analysis this isn't a thing between nations at all. Trade doesn't take place between nations. No imports or exports are entered upon the books of a nation, because trade takes place between the individuals of a nation. It does this in the case of a country and it does this also in the international law of trade.

In the last analysis, then, trade takes place between individuals, and there is something quite human in individuals which leads them to fight for freedom. They are fighting for it in Europe now. And this love of freedom is such that people who live on the borders of countries are continually free traders at night when the custom-house officer is not there. (Laughter). The tendency to trade is in their very blood.

In war time this tendency to run after freedom breaks out in another shape. Men are so fond of trading with one another that they continually run blockade during war time. It is the most difficult thing in the world to establish an effectual blockade because a man will trade at the risk of his life. He is doing it all the time. A man with a wife and children will risk his life. He is doing all his time. A ting up early in the morning, working long hours and overcoming many difficulties. But he carries this risk to an extreme point when he runs a blockade. It is the love of trading which prompts him to do it. People are being prosecuted today in England for trading with Germany. I have no defence to offer of them. To trade with the enemy just now is an act of treachery to the flag, and I have no sympathy for these people when they get caught and are punished, but I mention the fact as a very striking evidence, surely, of this instinctive tendency of people to trade and to trade as freely as people will permit them to.

Plain Commonsense

Let us bring it home to ourselves. Suppose after the war you have a different kind of blockade from that to which I have just referred. You know something about it out here in the West, where we often have heaps of grain lying on the prairie and no chance of getting it shipped. Suppose you are an individual farmer owning some of these heaps and needing money very badly. And suppose someone comes along and said: Now I can buy that wheat from you. I can take it away and I can give you greenbacks for it, but I am sorry to say it is going to Germany. Well, I know what everyone of you would say. You would say: It can go to Timbuctoo for all I care. I don't care how pious you may look that is exactly what you would do. And if the farmer needed the money he wouldn't be sane if he didn't take it. If his appetite were equal to his supper and the food was very lean I am sure he would want to sell the wheat.

Let me take another concrete example from inside Canada. Before the war we were selling to Germany considerable quantities of tin clippings from British Columbia. The people came by them honestly for they have a salmon-canning industry there and in making the cans for the salmon they cut the clippings off. Now these clippings were sold to Germany. The Germans have some good points, you know. For one thing they are frugal and I was brought up near enough to the borders of Scotland to have a regard for frugality. I don't feel disposed to blame them for it and if they practice it again after the war what harm will there be in it?

Being of a curious frame of mind I tried to think out what the Germans did with those tin clippings. I was pretty sure I had hit upon it, and upon inquiry I found I was right. They made toys of them. Now, suppose you had a heap of tin clippings and couldn't get rid of them. And then suppose a man came along with the greenbacks. Would you sell the clippings to Germany? Certainly you would. Oh, yes, to sell is all right from the protectionist's standpoint. The only condition he makes is that you shall not buy the German's toys.

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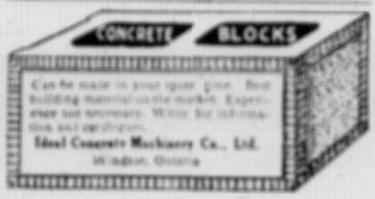

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