

craving an indulgence for a departure from what, I understand, is the ordinary procedure on an occasion like this. You will all readily realize, I feel sure, that the questions, which are to be considered are so complicated, the issues involved so momentous and the historical references necessarily so numerous, that it would be impossible to treat the subject in the cursory manner of an after-dinner speech. I have, therefore, taken the liberty of committing my views to writing so that neither too much may be said or anything of importance omitted as might be the case in an *impromptu* effort. My remarks must, therefore, be regarded rather in the nature of an address than of an after-dinner speech, such as the many brilliant ones to which you have listened in this club. I trust, such as it is, it will prove not altogether uninteresting or un instructive.

We are meeting to-day, as you are all aware, under the shadow of appalling conditions, the most appalling conditions, in fact, that the world has ever witnessed. When millions of heroic men are at death's grips, when the fate of human freedom is hanging in the balance, when our very civilization is endangered, it may at first sight seem almost presumptions to even discuss questions, which under ordinary conditions would be regarded as of the most vital importance. But, let it be understood, that all the views that I shall express are based on the assumption that the cause for which Great Britain, Canada, France, the United States and all the other Allies are fighting in the titanic conflict that is now raging, shall be, as I am sure we are all convinced it will be, victorious. In the event of Germany triumphing and being in a position to force its will on the world the fate of Canada would then, indeed, be problematical, and there would be a far greater danger to our national ideals and our national entity to face than could possibly be presented under any other conditions. But I cannot conceive, none of you, I am sure, can conceive of such an eventuality as the triumph of Germany over the forces of nearly all the free democratic nations of the world. When, therefore, the war is over, when the Allies are victorious, when the cursed system of