

led a charmed life. No living Canadian remembers hearing a shot fired within her wide boundaries by a foreign enemy. It is not surprising that a sense of profound security has stolen over the land, and that it is hard for people who want to live at peace to believe that they are exposed to any danger. They are inclined to argue that no invader could occupy so vast a territory, and this is true enough. But in modern warfare the enemy who seizes the great centres of a nation's life has the country at his mercy. If London could be seized and held by an invading force how long could England hold out? Canada has not perhaps quite the same vital interest in the safety of Ottawa, and there have been times when its occupation by an enemy might have been tolerated. But I do not think any Canadian would contemplate with equanimity the sack of Montreal, or even of Toronto. At any rate, before we dismiss as fantastic the idea of foreign invasion, it will be wise to consult the experts, naval and military, whose business it is to consider the feasibility of such things. We cannot escape danger by hiding our heads in the snow any more than the ostrich can by burying its head in the sand.

I am one of those who believe that the time will come when public opinion will no longer tolerate wars between so-called civilized nations. If they were really civilized, war would be impossible now. I believe also that the inexpressible folly of the present system is realized more clearly on this side of the Atlantic; and that the United States and Canada have an opportunity of doing an immense service to humanity by rousing public sentiment throughout the world. There must be in every country a large and increasing body of people who agree with Mr. Angell that it is a great illusion to suppose that nations become rich and great by wars, and that the enormous waste of money on armies and "Dreadnoughts" cannot go on indefinitely. But while this work of arousing the public conscience proceeds, Canada cannot afford, any more than her neighbours, to leave her shores open to attack.

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