

by the moral issue involved; because from the beginning it was apparent that the issue lay between right and wrong, and ultimately the right was bound to prevail, as it did.

The war is the greatest by far in the history of the world, with a greater outpouring of blood and treasure than was ever before dreamt of by mankind, and after four years of struggle, in which half the human race was engaged, in which millions of men laid down their lives, in which money was poured out on a scale that no financier would have thought possible at the beginning of the war, after the most terrible experiences, disasters and tribulations to mankind, the war by the efforts of the Allies was finally brought to a victorious conclusion, and Germany and her associates were crushed. It would seem to follow quite logically that Germany, having taken the sword and pursued the ambitious designs which she did, having attacked nations that did not desire or even suspect war and that had no policy of aggrandizement to follow, the consequences of the defeat of Germany should be indemnity by Germany to the extent that she is able, and not only able now but having regard to the future, to those nations which have suffered by her attempted world dominion and have been put to the enormous cost that they have in bringing her to her knees. So that, personally, I agree with my hon. friend that there is every reason why Germany, to the extent that she is able actually and potentially, should be made to pay the Allies reparation for the losses sustained by their nationals through her illegal warfare, and indemnity against their war expenditure. I am frank to say to my hon. friend that I have very grave doubts whether Germany actually and potentially would be able to pay in full the colossal expenditures which have been incurred by the Allies in defeating her and those nations with which she was associated, and which also should be made to pay to the extent of their ability. But I lay down the proposition that she should be made to pay, and those in league with her should be made to pay, to the extent that they are able, and no consideration of mercy should enter. It should be a cold, economic calculation as to what Germany, Austria-Hungary and Turkey can pay, and then, in my view, they should be made to pay it. That is one of the questions under consideration at the Peace Conference in Paris. I understand that a committee has been appointed whose duties it is to make careful inquiries and ascertain what Germany and her allies

[Sir Thomas White.]

are able to pay not only at the present time but over a course of years; in other words, what would be the maximum exaction which could be demanded from Germany to meet the losses of the Allies to their nationals through the unlawful warfare of Germany and to indemnify the Allies against the enormous war expenditures, including, of course, existing war debts which have been incurred by the nations which have been opposed to her. My hon. friend can rest assured that the claims of Canada have not been overlooked. Sir Robert Borden has been furnished some time since by the Government here with a full statement of Canada's war expenditure (including pensions) and of the losses which have been sustained by citizens of Canada during the war; I refer particularly, but not exclusively, to the losses which have been sustained by owners of craft on our Atlantic coast which were destroyed by German submarine warfare. The representatives of Canada at the Peace Conference have complete information and Canada's statement of claim, I can assure my hon. friend, will be full and comprehensive.

I saw the item to which my hon. friend referred in one of the newspapers. I am satisfied that it must be based only on rumours, and that it has no substantial, official basis. Nothing has come to me from the Prime Minister which would indicate that the claims of Canada will not be pressed, as the claims of the other Allies, for satisfaction to the extent that they can be satisfied in the settlement with Germany. My hon. friend has stated that Canada was brought into the war against her will. If I did not misunderstand him, he meant that Canada had no desire to go to war; that we were a peaceful and peace-loving people. We went to war not only because Great Britain but every part of the Empire was threatened; not only the Empire and every part of it, but civilization itself. And no nation that had a sense of honour could remain out of the war after its issues were truly known. When Great Britain entered the war in 1914 Canada became ipso facto at war. Our coasts became subject to attack. We are part of the British Empire, and, as my hon. friend said, when Great Britain went to war, Canada legally and constitutionally became at war with Germany.

We did not enter the war only for the purpose of helping Great Britain. I believe that Canada would have gone into the war for that purpose; but Canada went into this war from a profound conviction