

love our ease. Mr. Hazen, it is not true that we keep out of politics because they are dirty; it is true that we keep out of politics because we are not willing to pay the price,—we are not willing to put up with the discomfort, we are not willing to surrender our own ease. It is very much easier to pick up the morning paper, or after the business of the day is over to meet or gather together in dining clubs and talk about affairs. It is much easier to criticize those that do, and then sit back at ease and think we are virtuous because we are better than they are. It is not true. We are out of the serious things in life that matter, we are out of them because we have not the courage and purpose and sacrifice to go into them. Let us not humbug ourselves with idle ranting, for it is not true.

There are grave conditions in this country. We have extreme party spirit everywhere. I have lived in Ottawa for a year. I could not conceive of any condition where party politics were more bitter or more insistent than they have been in the official circles in the City of Ottawa during this last year, as if it were a horse race that was on in place of a great war in which the very life of the nation is in peril. We have to live together in this country. We have one-third of our community who are French Canadian people. We of British birth and British aspiration and British temper cannot sink them in the St. Lawrence and have them disappear. Nor can they—notwithstanding their viewpoint—nor can they live in a country other than with us. And God forgive us for either party strife or sectionalism or any other fault whereby we fail to help one another, to understand our mutual point of view and work one with the other for the common good of the state. And I would like to say—and, Mr. President, I am sure I am not abusing the courtesy or traditions of the Club (for all party spirit, and, I hope, a lot of other rubbish, have been burned up by those experiences through which I have passed) when I say that if a general election is held shortly, a racial cry will be inevitable and English will be pitted against French and French against English, and there will follow years of bitterness. Moreover, remember when the struggle of the war is over, the group of men who will sit around the table in council with the representatives from other Dominions to determine