

salve the soul; teaching the manufacturer to call himself a patriot as he pockets his private gains, and to shout for trade, more trade, that he may cram his pockets the fuller; teaching the farmer that his own fat, easy industry is war itself, and that he may count his fatted cattle in the light of his stable lantern and go to bed a patriot; teaching all the drones and parasites, the lawyers, the professors, the chefs and the piano players, the actors and the buffoons that in going on with their business they are aiding in the conduct of the war.

"Business as usual," shouted some especial idiot at the outset of the war.

The cry was like to ruin us.

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What then are we to do? By what means can we change from an economy of peace and industrial selfishness to an economy of effort and national sacrifice?

There are two ways in which this can be done: one that is heroic and impossible, another that lies easy to our hand.

The first is the method that nations adopt only in their despair, only in the last agonies of foreign conquest, as when Richmond fell, or when the Boers fought on in grim desperation across the naked veldt. Here national production ends, save only for necessary food and war supplies. Private industry is gone. Luxury is dead. All of the nation's men are gathered into a single hand. They do as they are told. They fight, they work, they die. Its women are in the fields; or they are making bandages; they tend the sick; they pray beside the dying.

Thus can a nation stand, grim and terrible, its back against the wall, till it goes down, all in one heap, glorious. In the wild onslaughts of the great conquests of the past, nations have died like this.

But for us, here and now, and in the short time that we have, this is not possible. Outside invasion could force us to it, in a jumbled wreck, with no choice of our own. But to accomplish this at a word of command inside our present complex industrial system is not possible. It is too intricate, too complicated, to be done by command from above. To enlist every man and woman in an industrial army, to direct their work and assign their rations—in other words, to create an ideal national war machine—is a task beyond the power of a Government. Years of preparation would be needed.

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What we do must be done from below, using, as best we can, the only driving force that we know—the will of the individual. We must find a means that will begin to twist and distort our national industry out of its present shape till it begins to take on the form of national organization for war.

To do this we must exchange war prosperity for war adversity, self-imposed and in deadly earnest.

The key to the situation, as far as we can unlock it, lies in