

St. Cyprian's Church

Morgan Boulevard

Montreal

You will rightly criticize the point of view which I shall put before you, by allowing for the prejudice of a parson, just as I have said that we must take into account the fact that Sir Arthur Currie was a soldier, and estimate him accordingly. But it does seem to me that we have not yet said the last, and incomparably the greatest, word about our prospects in the fight against war. At any rate, we have not said much about it publicly. What I mean is, of course, that until we see that the task of preventing war is first and foremost a religious effort, we cannot hope to get very far. It is no doubt true that "we cannot hope to change human nature", but it is also true that Peace is a gift of God, and that, like all other great gifts from above, it is bestowed only when we qualify for it, by making sacrifices. So, while I agree with Sir Arthur Currie in his statement about men's blood, I feel that we should apply ourselves to the task of changing the course of human nature, if we are satisfied that we cannot change it in essence.

I am convinced that, left to their own devices, men will fight for what they regard as their rights, which means what they believe belongs to them, without regard to the rights of others. I know that the Church, using the word in the widest possible sense, has failed lamentably to realize the truth that Christ is the Prince of Peace. It is not enough to limit the application of that truth to a few days before and after Christmas. If we really believe it, we ought to put it forward in all our discussions as to prospects for peace in a troubled world, torn with all the suspicions and jealousy which unrestricted nationalism always provides.

I know it is a challenge to the Church, and I believe the Church would be better if it were challenged on great issues more frequently than we know it is. You are a layman, and a thoughtful one. It is possible that you will, to some extent, agree with this view of the greatest effort we can make, if we of this bridge generation are to do our part to save civilization from perishing.

Please let me add this word only in conclusion. Do not think there is any obligation to acknowledge this little note. I know how busy you must be, and that it must be impossible for you to attend, as you would like to do, to correspondence. The pressure on your time must be very heavy indeed.

Sincerely yours,

A. Victor Warner
