

gle, in which the liberties of humanity and the existence of the British Empire are at stake, to say nothing at all of the future of our own Canada. It is, therefore, difficult indeed to divorce our most anxious thoughts from the paramount problem of what can best be done to win this war in the shortest space of time and with the surest finality. That is above all the first business of the Canadian people. This is truly a duty the neglect of which would rob us of all opportunity to devote ourselves to any other duties.

But, gentlemen, with union and co-operation, we will finish fighting some day. We will do it by finishing German militarism and German covetousness of our great Empire. We will do it by destroying Germany's hope of ever being able to turn Canada into an overseas Alsace-Lorraine. And when we have finished the Germans, we will find ourselves just beginning the upbuilding of our own country, Canada.

The question I ask tonight is: Will we be ready for it? Will we be ready to grasp the new opportunities with strength and determination, in competition with many other nations fully awake to these after-the-war chances? Will we take promptly up once more the task of making the twentieth century Canada's century?

The war caught Canada at an unfortunate time. It caught us, speaking commercially, in the midst of our great harvest. We were making more progress than