

St. Cyprian's Church

Morgan Boulevard

Montreal

1668, Boulevard Pie IX,
Montreal, P.Q.,

12-xi-1935

A.E.Morgan, Esq., M.A.,
Windsor Hotel, Montreal.

Dear Mr.Morgan:

After listening to your address last night, at the American Presbyterian Church, and hearing part of your talk to the Rotary Club to-day, the latter part being interrupted by a telephone call, I shall venture, if you do not object, to make a comment or two, which may possibly be of some slight interest to you.

To begin with, nobody except a crank could criticize your remarks on either occasion, except in what he might consider to be a constructive sense. That is, after all, the only sort of criticism that is worth much in any case. What I have in mind is your statement that we can prevent war, by fixity of purpose, and co-operation and co-ordination of forces corresponding to what we did in 1914-1918, during "the war that was to end war." We are faced now, after seventeen years since the Great Silence of 1918, with an international situation in which war is actually going on, to further the ambition of a dictator, who possibly seeks to emulate Alexander, Caesar or Napoleon, without, as far as we can see, taking into full account the fact that the first two were masters of the world for a very short time, and that the third never actually attained that eminence. The thinking element of civilized mankind, outside of Italy, Germany and Russia, would probably agree that, as we say in Canada, "he is riding for a fall," and that it may come very soon.

Meanwhile, it would seem that, while recognizing what the League of Nations has accomplished, our poor old selfish human nature has been revealed in its true colors in the delay in the application of sanctions, an example of the truth that "we do not care what happens, as long as it does not happen to us." The hesitation of the United States last week to assure the world that exports of oil to Italy would be stopped can only have one explanation, which is as clear as if it were written in letters of flame on the sky. A few men there, while giving lip-service to the principle involved in the application of sanctions, are not ready to make any appreciable sacrifice to do their part in applying it. They see a chance to make money by selling oil to Italy, and their Government is influenced by them. That indicates how safe the world was made for democracy in the Great War.

Your immediate predecessor, Sir Arthur Currie, said, among other things which remain in men's minds to-day, that "as long as men's blood runs red, there will be war." After making due allowance for the point of view of a soldier, what he meant was simply that there is no merely human way of controlling the passions, pride and ambition of men, and in the aggregate they will inevitably lead to war.