

THE MAINTENANCE OF AN OPEN MIND

This means that no fixed and static dogmas can necessarily stand unchanged in a changing world. They must give way to fit the altered conditions. Our university can give the student the spirit of this scientific approach to most efforts of human endeavor; not only to the realm of abstract knowledge, but to a vast number of the practical affairs of everyday life, to sociology, religion, business, politics, government. Our university can give its students tolerance, so that they will not condemn an idea offhand, because it is new or because it is old. It can help them to develop that tempered judgment which is the beginning of wisdom.

And as I would urge the scientific method upon teachers and upon these new students of ours, just on the threshold of the university, so would I urge upon myself and upon my associates in the world of affairs to turn away from every form of bias; to examine with unprejudiced eye any new economic system or change of our present system that may be proposed; above all, to get away from that rigid nationalism which has proved so crippling.

THE FOLLY OF ECONOMIC WARS

But I beg you will be under no illusion as to my own individual convictions, unimportant as they are: No economic system whatever—old or new—can be devised which shall be proof against the folly which mankind has shown. In 1914 to 1918 white men engaged in a titanic struggle of self-destruction. It was the first war of populations. Previous wars had been wars of champions.