

How Long Must the War Go On?

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BY

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Speaking before this Convention, meeting in Chicago one year ago, a brief survey of the most important problems then facing the international life of the world was offered and the question pressed, What will the American people do about it? A full year has passed, and the answer to that question is, Apparently practically nothing! The American people just now seem content to prefer the lugubrious continuance of adversity to stirring themselves to regain prosperity; to permit their capital resources to be drained to an extent that is little short of astounding rather than to make an effort to lead the way in bringing to an end conditions which make possible that draining; to watch some seven millions of unemployed walking the streets in distress and want and to give unselfishly of their savings to help their less fortunate fellows, seeing factories close, railways drift toward receiverships and farm income fall from twelve billion dollars in 1929 to seven billion dollars in 1931, rather than to proceed to reconstruct their economic policies and international relationships so as to stimulate industry, trade and transportation and offer new and multiplied opportunities for gainful occupation; to dawdle idly in the presence of foolish and meaningless talk at Washington rather than to rouse themselves to act to compel their government to conform to instructed, unselfish and high-