

If Germany should impose her domination on the world, what would be the result? Militarism all over the world. Not only would Europe be what it is, a camp armed to the teeth, but North America would also be an armed camp on a permanent basis. Is there anything that Canada needs less and should fear more than militarism? With our climatic conditions, with our long winters, our sparsely populated country, with its tremendous geographical and other difficulties, how are we going to make this country prosperous if we have militarism? I say that Canada has that supreme interest of preserving democracy and defeating the militarism which Germany has tried to impose upon the world. We might not have entered the war on the very first day. Even Great Britain waited a few days; but Great Britain was bound to interfere, not only because of the invasion of Belgium, not only because of the invasion of France, but for the reasons which I have indicated—the same reasons which make it necessary for us to take part in the war. England could not afford to commit the error in 1914 that she had made in 1870. God knows every one must now realize, that if Great Britain had understood her duty at that time as she understood it in 1914, we would not have had the terrible war of 1914.

It is my firm belief and reasoned conviction that, unless by the treaty of peace, whenever it comes, measures are taken by all the Allies, for the purpose of making France strong, great and prosperous, just as strong, great and prosperous as is possible, in population, in wealth and in every other way, in the interests of Europe, of the world, of democratic ideals, of peace, we shall again have this or some other Kaiser attempting to impose his domination upon the world. Since 1914 France has been, is to-day, and must continue and in greater measure to be, the greatest, the real barrier against German invasion and German domination. Upon the battlefields of France will be settled the fate of world democracy for many generations to come.

For the same reasons which I have stated, the United States was bound to enter into this war. It had to come soon or late. It was not the sinking of the Lusitania which determined the United States to enter into this world conflict; that was merely the occasion, the opportunity for which the grand man, who presides over the destinies of the Republic to the south of us, was waiting. The United States was bound to enter this great war as Great Britain was bound to do so, and with all her strength; and it

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was only a matter of time until she did so, because the United States, perhaps the greatest exemplar of democracy in the world, had a paramount duty to perform in standing up for democratic principles and democratic ideals.

Honourable gentlemen have told us that the war is and must continue to be the supreme concern of the moment. I agree with that; but I disagree when they tell us that is the only thing and that everything else must be put to one side and not considered. I submit that it would be rank folly for us to neglect all other things simply because we have this great difficulty and burden on our hands. While some tell us that the war is the whole and only thing, the Government of the day very wisely has not acted on that principle. If they had done so they would be seriously blamed. They have discussed immigration, returned soldiers, trade after the war and many other urgent problems; they even took the opportunity of passing that outrageous deal with the Canadian Northern. The fact that the war was on did not prevent honourable gentlemen putting through Parliament the deal, or the steal—I have no hesitation in calling it that—which was carried with the Canadian Northern Bill; and of course we have not heard the last of it. When the chickens come home to roost, and that soon and with persistent regularity, when the results of the rather farcical investigation that is going on now to determine the value of the shares of this hopelessly bankrupt concern, come along, and the bill with it, and the other bills that this country has to foot—probably two hundred millions of dollars—we shall hear something more about the Canadian Northern deal.

Besides these material problems, we have national and social problems, and we cannot afford to neglect them because of this other great and pressing war problem. We have to look after the soul of Canada. We cannot neglect the body spiritual. If the members of the Union Government will only think for one moment of the horrible condition of the soul of Canada at the present time, if they will only diagnose our tremendous racial trouble, they will find perhaps that their supreme and paramount duty is to bring about unity. If you are going to have unity of action and unity of effort in the country, does it not follow that you must have unity in the community? If you are going to have all the people uniting for the purpose of doing the best that can be done to help the Allies, is it not an essential preliminary condition that you should first of all create