

batteries. The whole character of the German fleet shows that it was designed for aggressive and offensive action on the highest possible scale in the North Sea or the North Atlantic.

The German Navy has not come forth from its fortress shelter to engage the British fleet in any large action. We cannot know what designs the future may reveal; but it is an open secret that by a process of attrition, of destroying here and there a dreadnought or a cruiser, Germany hopes to undertake the contest on more equal terms. Our commerce has nevertheless been to some extent disturbed, many ships have been captured, one important cable station in the Pacific has been destroyed and in the South Pacific two ships went down after a most gallant action against great odds. With them went down four young Canadians, three from my native province and one from the adjoining Province of New Brunswick; and I pause to pay a tribute to their memory. Consider what might have been the result if many such cruisers as the "Emden", the "Königsberg" and the "Karlsruhe" had been let loose to prey upon our commerce; and remember that Great Britain's ability to keep concentrated in the North Sea the enormous naval force now gathered there is owing to conditions which could not be anticipated with certainty. The powerful French fleet in the Mediterranean and the Japanese cruisers in the Pacific have enabled Great Britain to keep the "Grand Fleet", as it is called, concentrated in the North Sea to muzzle the German Navy. Mr. Churchill has spoken of the Navy's splendid work. Realizing that all the ocean pathways throughout the world had to be protected and our commerce safeguarded in every sea, one cannot say too much in praise of the officers and men who have discharged this great duty.

The German Government has a wonderful intelligence system, and most interesting information was communicated to me two years ago as to its extensive methods of espionage in Great Britain. Apparently the German Secret Service acquired more information than its Government was able to digest. Ireland was to rise in revolt. The self-governing Dominions would stand aloof. There would be uprisings in India and the British Islands must stand alone in the day of trial. The German Government evidently believed that the British race had become decadent, that the ancient valour and fighting spirit were of the past, that the reputed strength of the Empire was a sham and that we must go down before her powerful attack because we were too selfish, too commercial, and too cowardly to justify our continued existence. Do the plains of Belgium and the hills of France tell the story of decadence? The annals of the British Army disclose no more heroic record. Have the self-governing Dominions stood aloof,