

will amply demonstrate. It is going on when it is calmly proposed that the Congress, facing a deficit of colossal proportions, shall undertake to commit the nation to a new expenditure of some \$600,000,000 for the purpose of strengthening an instrument of war which we have pledged ourselves never to use. Have we lost not only our national common sense but also our national sense of humor? What sort of spectacle shall we present to the historian of tomorrow who tells the world the effect of the great war upon the people of the United States, upon their civilization and upon the operation of their government?

It is the business of public opinion to move to stop the war, that war which is raging in the hearts and minds of far too many millions of men in our own land and in other lands. This is not a form of war which can be brought to an end by any kind of force or by the use of anything that resembles the once powerful military arm of government. It can only be brought to an end by persuasion, by good will and by self-determination. The battle is raging on the field of ideas, and the combatants are the ideas of yesterday and the ideas of tomorrow. We have our choice between looking backward and looking forward. We may, if we insist, continue to look backward, entrench ourselves behind the breastworks of armed and competitive nationalism, relapse into the dull placidity of somnolent selfishness and let civilization take the consequences, whatever these may be. Or we may look forward and throw our whole force, intellectual and moral, behind those institutions, still in the making, which are the expression and the embodiment of forward-facing men's convictions and ideals. Chief among these are the institution for international consultation provided by the League of Nations at Geneva, the institution for judicial determination of international differences provided by the Permanent Court of International Justice at The Hague, and the institution for financial international understanding and coöperation furnished by the Bank for International Settlements at Basel. These three cities, Geneva,