

nation.

This is worth more than anything else, for there is no unliftable curse on any people, except the idea of a weak or a degraded nationhood. Neither commerce nor art, nor literature make up for the loss of that spirit. Without it the biggest city the world has ever seen is merely a pack of organized enterprise. With that national spirit the meanest collection of packing cases that was ever tackhammered on a prairie can uplift and dominate a continent.

Gentlemen, you are fortunate beyond most other communities. Your own labor, your own sacrifice have given you material prosperity in overwhelming abundance, and the Gods above have not denied you the light that shows the true use and the true significance of that material prosperity.

One is forced back to the old words that you stand on the threshold of an unbelievable future. There is no man, and here I must quote again 'that can foresee or set limits to your destiny.' But any man, gentlemen, even I, have the right to remind you, before I sit down, that to whom much has been given, from them much, much shall be required.