

those who are in possession of correct opinions to take upon themselves that labour which is necessary for the illumination of the public mind.

It is hard for statesmen who are brought up in the simple Canadian conditions surrounding farm, factory, shop, and law-office to understand how complicated an affair the world really is. They are in the mental situation of the housemaid from the country, who thinks of a water supply in terms of springs and wells, who associates milk with cattle, light with candles, and heat with glowing logs. Nurtured in peace, a peaceful life is the normal life to them; war the ultimate wickedness of which humanity, left to itself, is capable; Government comes to mean an association for purposes of trade, and public finance a multiplicity of perplexing regulations. They are entirely incapable of comprehending that the ultimate appeal of a nation is to the ordeal of battle and that all negotiations are an attempt to arrive at a solution by an easier method.

Those alone are competent to conduct the operations which end in a compromise, who have the fear of war before their eyes, who have dealt in blood, and have seen the tears of the widow. It is easy to call for battles which one is not compelled to fight, to be rash when one's life is not the forfeit, to engage in the high play of war when there is nothing at stake. All negotiations which have for their object the maintenance of peace must be regarded not with the feeble light of the court room but in the lurid glare of war.

Diplomatists whose chief concern is with tariffs, and preferences, and reciprocities may fail to arrive at a conclusion, and things will be as they were. Possibly a farmer may be obliged to sell his wheat at a diminished price or a manufacturer may continue to enjoy an unnatural profit. Failure may lose them an election; but the issues of life and death are not in their hands. The one is the business of a politician: the other is the business of an ambassador with plenary power.