

illusion sometimes bitter. Yet in spite of this the British peoples were one. Probably we tend in smooth and easy days to underestimate the effect of the deep roots of unbroken tradition which nourish the life of a nation. The liberties of Canada have come, not without struggle, slowly from precedent to precedent based on parallel changes in Britain herself. It is the same in Australia. What these young states thus prize most in their own life is what Britain itself prizes most and it has involved no rupture with the long past or with the parent state. There is among all of them continued unity in tradition and political development. In the moment of crisis they could not, with such traditions, do other than think alike on the great question of human liberty.

Every part of the British Empire did well and bravely the work which fell to it. The supreme sacrifices fell, however, on Britain herself. She met them in a spirit which made the British peoples everywhere proud to be bone of her bone, flesh of her flesh. Her fleet guarded all the seas and kept them open for herself and every allied nation as well as for neutrals. Thousands even of her civilian sailors perished. On land she fought in Europe, in Asia, and in Africa. When almost all of her male population of fighting age and about one in six of her total population took up arms, her women occupied their places in work at home. She so kept up her production that she paid out of current revenues a greater portion of the cost of the war than any other nation but the United States. When herself well-nigh bankrupt by the strain of war she continued to lend to needy allies. In the last year of the war Germany, recognizing that Britain was her deadliest foe in Europe, threw against her two-thirds of the German fighting forces in the West. More than two million casualties and a million dead were the awful cost that the British paid. Yet from the British Isles which bore most of this sacrifice came no word of complaint of an undue share of burden, or of boasting over what Britain had achieved.

It is too early to assume that in the Imperial War Cabinet we have the lines of a solution of the method of coöperation. Probably both it and the War Cabinet of Great Britain during the last years of the war were as effective means as could have been devised at the time for attaining the ends in view. The report for 1918 of the small body which directed the war effort of Great Britain gives an amazing record of achievement. In that year 1,359 new tanks were delivered and a much larger number would have been ready in 1919. The tonnage of ships completed in the year amounted