

I cannot refrain from interrupting myself again to insist that this all means not the smallest relaxation of our efforts to win the war and usher in this happy day of opportunity. If any man must choose at any moment between striking a blow to defeat the enemy and taking a thought for the morrow of peace, by all means strike the blow and let the thought go. But we surely have time for both—and if our preparations for peace be intelligent and earnest, we will in a few years be better off than we ever were.

The chance that is coming will not be repeated. We expect to win this war so completely that it will be the last for generations. The lines upon which the peaceful development of the world will proceed will be fixed in the first few months after the signing of peace—and we shall certainly not get our fair share unless we have made previous painstaking preparation.

I need not go further into this question tonight. Its outlines are clear enough to you all. For the moment the Government is confronted with the very important duty of providing transportation to market this year's crop—a bounteous and profitable crop. The farmers of our great West have heeded the call of the allied world and planted an unprecedented acreage of wheat—and yet the very war which prompted this call has caused a shortage of the means