

the state. Why have anger towards the manufacturer when you have none towards yourselves? What has been our position in Canada? Am I saying too much if I indicate that, on the whole, we have looked upon the war as an extra? Am I stating it too strongly if I say we are almost drunk with the prosperity which comes to us through the expenditure of immense sums of borrowed money and through the expenditure upon natural products of sums of money, because of the high price, that staggers every one who has to buy them? Is there evidence in this country of national sorrow and concern? God knows, some of you have paid, and some of your sons have paid the final penalty, and they are lying over in France or in Flanders. But, speaking broadly, as a people, is there sorrow? Is there any deep arousal of moral earnestness? Is it not "Business as usual", and profits larger than usual? You gentlemen who are in the Civil Service and by reason of it have fixed salaries will say that you pay a fair penalty in the increased cost of living without getting any increased return in your salaries, but I am thinking of the nation as a whole. Is there any deeply aroused feeling? Have you reflected that there is absolutely nothing in this conflict for us except what we take out of it in character? Have you reflected that before we get through with this job we shall probably find that annually thereafter we shall have one hundred million dollars of taxes to pay, in interest and sinking fund and pensions? And I think we may well ask whether a good deal of the anger which we profess to have against profiteers, and against governments and against those who are in actual position of responsibility, I think we may very well ask whether it is not a very flippant exercise after the most casual thought.

I had the opportunity of going to the Front. I know how easy it is to think that some experience you have will effect a permanent change, but it seems to me I never can look at life again as I did prior to the experiences of the last eight or nine weeks. You are startled when you get on the steamer with the returning soldiers, for no civilians are permitted to cross from Folkestone to Boulogne except those who have special permits—you are startled to have a sailor come to you with a life preserver and say, "Please put this on". You realize you are in the danger