

One of the dearest hopes of the men who fought on the Great War - the one which most sustained them in those tragic days - was that their efforts, if victorious, would put an end to all war. I do not know how many of the men who controlled the destinies of Europe entertained such hopes, but I do know that thousands, yea, ~~hundreds of~~ <sup>hundreds of</sup> thousands, of citizens sacrificed their happiness, their health, their fortunes and even their lives in the hope of winning peace for their children and for generations yet unborn.

So far as its aim was the establishment of permanent peace, the Great War completely failed. It failed because the governments of the world betrayed their trust. In the first place the victors imposed on the vanquished a treaty which was sure to create, and has created, endless friction and trouble, not only between former enemies, but between former allies. Then to guard against the dangers they had brought about, and which they must have foreseen, they began building up new armaments. There are, it is true, important agencies, such as the League of Nations, whose definite purpose is the promotion of peace and the avoidance of war. There are, it is true, new international agreements and new treaties, the latest of which has denounced war as an instrument of national policy. But history teaches us that the engagements of governments are easily disregarded while the actions of the great nations belie their words.