

Address at Newmarket, Ont.,
 December 4, 1915 - Patriotic and recruiting meeting.

As we approach another Christmas season, and its message of peace on earth, goodwill towards men makes an appeal such as ^{it} never before ~~it~~ has made to the nations of the world, the man who counsels a continuance of conflict lays upon his life a responsibility that is vast indeed. After a year and a half of war, when the supposed glory of it has dimmed and paled before its sacrifice and its horrors; when tragedy, indescribable tragedy, alone suffices to express the feelings uppermost in every human heart, it requires something more than courage to go on recruiting regiment after regiment, and watch them leave our shores for the battlefields of Europe in the very vessels that bring back the surviving maimed and wounded to their Canadian homes again. Men are asking themselves today, with a searching of heart deeper than ever before, if their efforts should not now be directed towards a cessation of hostilities rather than a prolongation of them, towards peace rather than a continuance of war.

The answer to this question will depend upon the understanding we have of the issues that are fundamental in this war, of the causes of the war, and of its significance in the history of mankind. Of these, happily, we have a fuller knowledge and a wider vision than we had when the war commenced.

If we were ever in doubt as to what the issue is, the experiences of a year and a half, and our knowledge of the present, are surely sufficient to show that the war is to decide whether nations may enjoy Liberty though small, whether peoples may be free other than by sufferance of an arrogant autocracy, ^{and} whether the world is to be ruled by might and fear, or governed by principles of honor and right. If there was ever ^{imagining} ~~imagining~~ as to the

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