

receive." So some of the most valuable inventions and processes which were discovered in Great Britain went over to Germany, under that commercialized idea of business. But subsequently there was trouble. The national boundaries became things which you could not cross with your dollars and your roubles and your other money significations. Then it was that the Empire found that that idea of nationalized commercialism was likely to wreck it. Germany had the monopoly in respect of things that were vital and necessary to the defence of Great Britain in time of war, and years were added to the war, hundreds of thousands to the dead, and billions of dollars to the national expenditures, because we had forgotten that the commercial man within the nation owed something to the nation itself. What he owed in this case was to see to it that these vital processes—vital to the nation's existence and to the development of its resources—were kept within the borders of his own land. Well, we have learned the lesson—and it was a bitter lesson to learn. But I do not think that the lesson will be unlearned; and that is something that the war has given us.

But it gave us something besides that. When I was over in England one of the British Ministers told me that when the first army that Britain sent over to France came to be overhauled and equipped, it was found that one of the articles used in that equipment was controlled by a monopoly in the hands of Germany and that in not a single factory in Great Britain could that article be made. Well, that was a startling lesson. What I mean to say is this: that our weakness and our bad policy was shown to us by the war. But the moment that came to be understood, the British people set themselves to work and replaced, so far as they could, what had been lost to the enemy in that respect. But, as I have said, what precious time was lost and what precious lives were sacrificed before what had been lost was regained. The resources, the skill, the inventive genius of the British people under the stress of war equalled and surpassed anything of that kind that had been seen in the German Empire. We learned the fallacy of what we had been teaching ourselves for many years—that the Germans were superior to the British people in this, that and the other thing. The fact of the matter is that they were not; they were simply