

President Wright,
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CHAPEL

Continuing our talk where we left off yesterday, I want to give you some more facts about the cost of the World War. I told you yesterday that the cost of this war was \$338,000,000,000, and the cost per hour for two years was \$10,000,000, and that it was four times the total value of this plant. I wish we had one-half hour of the expenditure, couldn't we make a good college?

The total cost in human life, that is, all those who were actually killed, is not less than 10,000,000. And that means the selected young men of the world. Think a minute what ten millions means. That is almost four times the total population of North Carolina. If they had all been Americans, it would mean about every eleventh human being that you meet would have been killed. But killing is not all, wounded seriously and otherwise, maimed probably for life, and many of them have subsequently died, 30,000,000. The thirty million added to the ten million make 40,000,000, and that means that each time you count off five people in America, two of them killed or crippled, if they had all been American citizens.

Just think for a minute what that gun out yonder means, -- \$338,000,000,000 of money and forty million human beings. The total cost of all other wars during the 19th century, I mean cost in human life, was only about 5,000,000. In other words, the World War killed at least twice as many people as all the wars killed in the preceding century. That is the price we pay for the cannon. The total cost in money to the United States; that is, the military cost to the United States is \$32,080,266,968. That was for 1917, 18, and 19. Thirty-two billions of money for two years. That meant that we spent one million dollars per hour, twenty four hours in the day. The total cost in human life to the United States: Killed in action, died of wounds,

diseases and accidents, -- 116,492 people; the total wounded, 230,074. Those two figures total up 346,560, about one-fourth of a million. There are two and one-half million people in North Carolina. That is the human cost for the cannon. (Five million in round numbers served in the war) The economic value of a human life, as worked out at this time, is \$4,720. Multiply that by the number of lives that were lost or crippled, maimed so that they are useless, and then provide added sums to take care of those folks, add all of that to these other monetary costs and you will find out what it cost us to fight in front of that cannon (because that was a German cannon).

Now, let's compare that with what we are doing in an educational way. The annual cost to the United States on account of war, \$3,855,111,864 in 1920, and \$2,043,023,057 in 1922. These figures represent the total expenditures caused by all past wars, and this World War is not less than 70 or 75 per cent of that money in 1920; 67.8 per cent in 1922. In other words, most of the money that we hear people talking about, taxation for the support of this government, most of it is due to the World War. That is the reason why taxes are so high throughout the world today. What part of this does North Carolina pay? That brings it down home to us. For the year 1924-25, the total receipts from internal revenue were \$2,584,140,268, and the receipts from North Carolina in 1924-25 were \$166,962,875, almost one hundred and sixty-seven million. Between seven and eight per cent of the whole cost paid by the United States was paid by North Carolina. In North Carolina elementary and high school education in 1924-25, all expense is estimated at \$33,000,000; 1925-27, the state appropriation was \$7,996,000 for maintenance and \$2,770,000 for permanent improvements. In other words, we are paying at least four dollars for wars for every dollar we pay for the education of the boys and girls in

North Carolina. So when people tell you about, how high taxes are, and they are high, you ask your father, right now is tax paying time, just remember that we are paying four dollars because the world went wrong and killed ten millions of its young men for every dollar we are paying in North Carolina to fit our children, your brothers and sisters and you, for the responsibilities of life. I don't believe that our people realize that yet. I don't believe that the people in the world yet fully realize the enormous cost in just dollars and cents that it has put the world to that they might have that nightmare called the World War. When people can see that it not only means the killing of a large number of our selected young men, but it means fastening on their brothers and sisters, probably for a whole generation, an enormous debt, a terrific tax that must be met; I believe when the world realizes that, they will realize that there is some other way for human beings to settle their differences, some other way for nations to reach an agreement, some other way for the world to live. The cannon that we have, I hope from this day on will be a constant reminder to us of what that way of settling international differences is going to cost the world.

Now, you may say, "Well, wouldn't you fight for your country?" Yes, I would. Somebody in my family has been in every war in this country from the time of the Revolution. I wouldn't give much for a man who wouldn't defend his country, but sometimes it is a sign of manhood to settle one's differences in some other way than to try to kill the other fellow. It takes just as much character to settle one's differences without murder as to settle them by shooting and killing, and that applies to nations as well as to individuals.