What Doth It Profit a Man

Germany is working, by every scheme that ingenuity can devise and money can put into operation, to make American workingmen traitors to their country in its hour of need.

What doth it profit a man if he sends his sons and brothers to the battlefields, and after he gets them there he betrays them to the enemy by stopping the industrial home work without which they can neither win nor escape?

The course of nations—the lives of millions—are changed by very small events. Had the Monitor not been ready for the Merrimac exactly when she was, the Union fleet would have been rendered useless and the Civil War might have had a different ending. Had someone then succeeded in delaying transportation while the Monitor was under construction, what would have become of the whole Union fleet of wooden ships which was blockading the Southern ports?

Germany wants us to be unready or confused when a similar crisis comes.

Our whole nation is preparing for the turning point in this war which is to determine whether every man shall have a chance to work out his destiny, or whether he and his country are to become subject to the dictation of a Prussian group.

If we are not fully ready when the test comes it will be easier for German armies and German ships, German submarines and German aircraft, to kill the men that go out from your community to protect you and your rights.

Whoever from any motive delays work bearing directly or indirectly on the war will be an accessory to the murder of his fellow Americans.

Every strike in the United States, while this war is in progress, is a blow in favor of Germany.

What doth it profit a man to increase his wages or decrease his working hours if by so doing he contributes to the victory of a nation that makes slaves of white men and scourges them as they work?

The condition of the blacks in America before the Civil War was far better than the condition of the whites of Belgium who today are carried off like cattle, are overworked, underfed, beaten and sick or well, must labor incessantly, often under the fire of their own guns.

What doth it profit a man to aid a monarch who in this manner has shamelessly re-established the slavery of white men? The workingman in America who obstructs the cutting of wood, the mining of fuel, the weaving of cloth, the turning of wheels in factories or on rails while this war is in progress—he is helping the slave masters, the destroyers of civilization, the murderers of women and children.

What doth it profit a man who has lived in a land of incomparable liberties, of advantages unparalleled in all the history of the world, to contribute by any act, however small, to the success of an autocracy to whom a common man is but a clod of earth?

The workingman who stands faithfully by his duties day by day, allowing no person and no thought to get between him and an honest performance of his work, is rendering the highest kind of patriotic service to his nation and to his family.

What doth it profit a man to sell his manhood, his self-respect, perhaps his soul, for a little selfish gain in such an hour? When life's services are measured up at the end, those who have faithfully labored through the war shall be entitled to their credit as well as those who have led the charges in battle.

What doth it profit a man who wants to improve the condition of laboring men if he gains a little but in so doing prolongs the slavery of Belgian workingmen, who now cannot gain their freedom but by death, or through the victory of the Allies?

STAND BY YOUR WORK FOR YOUR OWN HONOR AND SAFETY, FOR THE SAFETY AND SUCCESS OF YOUR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN WHO GO FORTH TO FIGHT, AS WELL AS FOR THE SAKE OF WORKINGMEN WHO ARE NOW IN ACTUAL SLAVERY BENEATH GERMAN SLAVE DRIVERS.

Issued by the
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS
(Paid Adv.)
ST. HELENS SHIPBUILDING COMPANY