UPBUILDING NATIONAL VITALITY—
THE NEED FOR A SCIENTIFIC
INVESTIGATION

If American democracy is to survive, it
must be made more efficient—socially, in-
dustry, politically. If Americans are
to work out their national destiny unvexed
and unhampered by foreign interference
or domination, they must no longer endure
the hazard of unguarded peace.

These conclusions—right or wrong—have
been firmly fixed in the minds and hearts
of a vast number of Americans.

For many months they have observed the
great Christian nations of Europe rending
one another with the ferocity of wild beasts
—a savage, brutalizing struggle to destroy
life and property, to increase human pain
and suffering. The awful horror of it, the
appalling cost of it in men, money and
misery has passed beyond the grasp of the
imagination.

Civilization’s guarantees against such a
man-made calamity have been dishonored,
treaties torn up, the laws of common hu-
manity and of God designedly outraged,
and the rule of the sword substituted.

On one flank America has this extraordi-
nary recrudescence of the spirit of national
outlawry and conquest. On the other it
has a rapidly advancing military power
supported by an aggressive, warlike people
with colonizing policies.

The possibility that American democ-
ocracy may eventually be squeezed or crushed
between these two great forces of militar-
ism can no longer be ignored.

1 Address of the chairman and retiring vice-

president of Section I, the American Association
for the Advancement of Science, Columbus, De-

cember 29, 1915.