“Watch Your Step,” 1914

U.S. Neutrality Proclamation, August 6, 1914

“All Depends on the Point of View,”
September 1914

Naughton, Frank, “All Depends on the Point of View,” September 1914. Courtesy of Library of Congress
My dear Father:-

Your letter of the 6th inst came this morning, Monday. Thank you very much for it. You are a very much better correspondent than I seem to be able to become, although my good intentions are most serious, and most frequently renewed. I have been at it every moment since our return except one afternoon that I took off for a mild lady-like game of tennis, and the time I managed to steal for Fred and his family during their visit of a week, which ended Friday, and which we enjoyed. Fred has gone on to Atlantic City, and Annie and the children are either with Mrs. Waelder in New York or else on their way to Texas. They were not decided when they left here just what their plans were.

I still continue to be absorbed in the War. It is seldom out of my thoughts except when I am asleep. I have expressed my sentiments plainly several times from the pulpit. The congregation as a whole is strongly in favor of the Allies, but one or two members of our choir and several families in the pews are pro-German. I am sorry if their feelings are hurt; but it cannot be helped. With me the issue is a life and death one, and I cannot act as though it were not. The German idea that is now in the saddle is to me absolutely detestable, and I mean to contribute all I possibly can to see that it is unhorsed. It by any chance Germany should win in this struggle, such as I detest militarism, I mean to advocate the quadrupling of our navy.
and the raising of an army of 5,000,000 men. The German Idea is in violent conflict with the American Idea, and unless the German Idea is unhorsed in this war, the clash between it and the American Idea must come in the very near future. Indeed, in my opinion, it ought to come the moment it looks as if there were a chance of the German Idea triumphing. I am no defender of England right or wrong, but on the lines on which she is now fighting I would sacrifice all I have, including my life, rather than see her defeated. Feeling this way, it is idle to talk to me about neutrality. My neutrality is based solely upon my expectation of the triumph of the Allies. I could no more remain neutral towards the program that the Kaiser and his war party have put forth than I could remain neutral towards the program of His Sacred Majesty. I am willing to believe that the great body of the German people are unaware of the full import of the proposition to which they have been committed by their leaders, and when the day of judgment comes no doubt they will have to have forgiveness meted out to them for their ignorance; but in so far as I can hasten Germany's day of judgment I mean to with all my might. Naturally my attitude is resented by some of my fellow citizens who call themselves German-Americans. One brother of the Lutheran persuasion has hurled railing accusations against me in the press, and I have received several letters from irate citizens, one going so far as to remind me of the "furor teutonicus" over all of which I have smiled sadly. I am not wasting my time answering these gentlemen, though I have been tempted to ask the fellow who hinted at German displeasure to send me a photograph of the first American he found who seemed at all awestruck at the thought of what Germans called "furor teutonicus" and what the world called crude barbarism masquerading under the
amusing name of "culture".

I began this letter this forenoon. I have been interrupted four times since I began. It is now nearly four o'clock. So it goes. And now I must go to keep an engagement.

I am sending you The Illustrated London News, and I also sent you a publication gotten out by The Times of New York containing the English and German White Papers and the Russian Orange Paper. I will send you Bernhardi's "Germany and the Next War" if you care to read it. He is a disciple of Nietzsche and Treitschke, both of whom had absolute contempt for Christianity, regarding it as nothing more than pop for babes. Treitschke is said to have had more influence in molding the present generation of Germans than any single man in Germany, and every sort of honor was heaped on him by scholastic and official Germany.

Of course we observed Peace Sunday, but as you have seen by my sermon I did not indulge in anything like a pipe dream. I faced the situation as I see it. We took up a collection for the Red Cross, and sent it on without any strings tied to it. Katherine is at the head of a movement in the Parish to send on a box of supplies to the Belgians. Personally we expect to contribute what we can each month while the war lasts. Except in the case of the Red Cross, our help will be for the Allies; although in the end, when I see Germany where she richly deserves to be, I will not withhold help from her people.

Katherine joins me in love to you and Aunt Mamie.

Your affectionate son.

Mercer G. Johnston

To the President of the United States,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

Feeling sure that you wish to get from all sources the sense of the American people in regard to great national questions, officers of the Woman's Peace Party venture to call to your attention certain views which they have reason to believe are widespread, although finding no adequate expression in the press.

We believe in real defense against real dangers, but not in a preposterous "preparedness" against hypothetical dangers.

October 29, 1915.
If an exhausted Europe could be an increased menace to our rich, resourceful republic, protected by two oceans, it must be a still greater menace to every other nation.

Whatever increase of war preparations we may make would compel poorer nations to imitate us. These preparations would create rivalry, suspicion and taxation in every country.

At this crisis of the world, to establish a "citizen soldier" and enormously to increase our fighting equipment would inevitably make all other nations fear instead of trust us.

It has been the proud hope of American citizens who love their kind, a hope nobly expressed in several of your own messages, that to the United States might be granted the unique priv-
née not only of helping the war-worn world to a lasting peace, but of aiding toward a gradual and proportional lessening of that vast burden of armament which has crushed to poverty the peoples of the old world.

Most important of all, it is obvious that increased war preparations in the United States would tend to disqualify our National Executive from rendering the epochal service which this world crisis offers for the establishment of permanent peace.

Jane Addams
Lucia Ames Head
Anna Garlin Spencer
Alice Steiner Post
Violetta Woodman
*Courtesy of Library of Congress*
“Iowa Senators Have Defenders,” Evening Times-Republican, 7 March 1917. Courtesy of Library of Congress
“Invasion of Belgium by the ‘Uncultured’,” 1914

"The Battle Fronts of Europe," 1917

“What America Has Done in Half Year of War,” The Daily Gate City and Constitution-Democrat, 5 October 1917. Courtesy of Library of Congress
American Soldiers Heading into Action in the Argonne Forest in France, 1918

“We Laid Our Idle Pleasures Down Until We Won”
Song Sheet, 1919 (Pg.1)

Harris, W.M., “‘We Laid Our Idle Pleasures Down Until We Won,” 1919. Courtesy of Library of Congress
We Laid Our Idle Pleasures Down

(Until We Won)

Words & Music by Wm. L. Harris
369 N. State St., Chicago

Moderato

In years at once we had rested on a
Those brave boys fell, right face and left in

peaceful happy land, We had no dream of Germany's desire,
air, on land and sea, Our Uncle Sam had looked on from afar.

For years they planned a mighty war that set the world on fire, We
When his cup ran full he gave a call to arms to fight the German tyranny, We laid our

laid our idle pleasures down until we won, They sunk our ships going
idle pleasures down until we won, That the Kaiser's dream should
to and fro they pillaged every clime, They showed no mercy to the mother and
and came true the world to demoralize That's why we rose in to a solid

Copyright MCMX by Wm. L. Harris, Chicago, Ill.

Harris, W.M., “”We Laid Our Idle Pleasures Down Until We Won,” 1919. Courtesy of Library of Congress
“Hoover the Humanitarian” Campaign Flyer, 1928

(Pg.1)

NO. 1

HOOVER THE HUMANITARIAN!

When the War broke out thousands of American Tourists were stranded in Europe. It was Hoover who managed to get them home.

YOUR

Belgium suffering, its food supplies exhausted, Hoover called to head American Commission for Relief. The war has depleted Hoover’s finances. Offers before him for gigantic work.

FRIENDS

At the breakfast table with Will Irwin, Mr. Hoover said - "The Hell with my Fortune" - and started on his great humanitarian work.

MAY

Millions were fed and clothed. Millions of tons of foodstuffs acquired on credit pending contributions. With delicate diplomacy overcome opposition from several Nations. Backed by American public opinion he overcome all obstacles. Fed 10,000,000 people for three years. Spent $28,000,000 a month, $928,000,000 all told. Hoover never draw one cent from these funds for salary, living expenses, traveling expenses, or for any purpose whatsoever. He paid out of his own pocket.

NOT

KNOW

THIS

............................................................

NO. 2

IT WAS HOOVER

Who kept 80 Freighter busy bringing 350,000,000 pounds of foodstuffs into Belgium every month to feed 10,000,000; every noon 2,300,000 children fed in the Belgian and Northern France Schools. His agents carried passports signed merely "Herbert Hoover" (what a testimonial to European confidence in his integrity). He made 40 round trips across the North Sea mines, back and forth across the war lines, battles with Lloyd George, Clemenceau and the German War Lords. They backed down and Belgium did not starve. Hoover was the only man in the world privileged to oscillate from Allied Headquarters to the German Headquarters at Charlestown.

EFFICIENCY

PLUS

HUMANITARIANISM

"As accomplishment without stain, this enterprise in practical idealism; the bright motive in the first two gloomy acts of cosmic tragedy; the benevolent but practical American spirit in its highest manifestation."

--- WHO BUT HOOVER ---

............................................................

NO. 3

HOOVER’S AMERICANISM

Did you hear that Mr. Hoover is not an American?

JUST A

REAL

AMERICAN

Herbert Hoover was offered citizenship in Great Britain, an executive position and a title. Herbert Hoover’s reply was - "I will do all I can to help with pleasure but I’ll be damned if I will give up my American Citizenship."

Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, 1928
HOOVER IS MORE THAN AN ENGINEER

"He has lifted engineering to its highest level. When as a boy he worked in the drifts of the Sierra mines, the Engineer — estimated the cost and selected the methods for sinking a shaft or digging a ditch or building a dam — gradually engineering expanded to a higher function — began to use calipers and calculus upon companies and industries as a whole; to discover by experiment and calculation where they were wasting effort, where missing opportunity, where blanketing with tradition."

(From Will Irwin's "Herbert Hoover" Page 313)

HOOVER'S WAR SERVICE

During the war Hoover was a diplomat, a financier, a dietician, admiral of a fleet, administrator of a billion dollar enterprise which absorbed only 3/8 of one per cent for "overhead."

--- WHO BUT HOOVER ---

WAS HOOVER AWAY FROM UNITED STATES TOO LONG?

Rapidly established reputation as mining engineer. Called to Australia in 1907. Then to China for awhile (read in Will Irwin's Biography of Hoover how he and Mrs. Hoover served in fighting the Boxer of Peking). Turkestan, Malay, Burma, Siberia. Carrying the gospel of American methods, American honesty. During the war he symbolized to the starving millions in Belgium and Germany the generosity and humanity of the American people.

Actually he was in this Country part of every year except 1907. With consulting jobs and branch offices scattered over the globe, is this a detriment or an ASSET?

Any diplomatic experience in dealing with the heartbreaking Czarist system, the "spheres of interest" in China, the imperialistic intriques in Africa, the revolutionary proclivities of Central America?

HOOVER AS FOOD ADMINISTRATOR

We entered war in 1917. Belgian relief continued under European auspices. Hoover comes home to be Food Administrator. Americans induced to save 1/3 wheat crop for European use. Governmental Grain Corporation formed. Bought and sold NINE BILLION DOLLARS worth of foodstuffs and finally left $80,000,000 of profit in the hands of the Government.
President Woodrow Wilson’s Shorthand Speech
Notes for his “Fourteen Points” Address,
January 8, 1918 (Pg.3)

President Woodrow Wilson’s Shorthand Speech Notes for his “Fourteen Points” Address, January 8, 1918 (Pg.4)

President Woodrow Wilson’s Shorthand Speech Notes for his “Fourteen Points” Address, January 8, 1918 (Pg.5)

President Woodrow Wilson’s Shorthand Speech Notes for his “Fourteen Points” Address, January 8, 1918 (Pg.7)

President Woodrow Wilson’s Shorthand Speech Notes for his “Fourteen Points” Address, January 8, 1918 (Pg.9)

or effect. I believe it is not only the privilege but the duty of every Senator to exercise his constitutional prerogative and to advise the President before he returns to France of his opinion upon a matter which so deeply concerns not alone the people of this country but of all countries who have organized themselves into governments. As I look at it, it is of far greater importance that we discharge this duty at this time than it is to consider appropriation bills or legislation of any character. Inasmuch as we may well yield to the members of the Foreign Relations Committee after the conference to which I have referred takes place, some of us must speak now or not at all.

No greater mistake could be made than to assume that there may not be an effective compact among nations, the sole purpose of which is to prevent, so far as humanly possible, future wars, without surrendering a single necessary attribute of our own sovereignty. I cannot concur in the argument which seems to lead to the conclusion that any form of internationalism is an unwise invasion of nationalism. I cannot agree that the
highest ideals of Americanism preclude cooperation among nations looking toward the abolition of war. From the very beginning of our national life, indeed, from a time antedating the triumphant close of the Revolution by five years, or more, we have been making treaties of peace and amity with the various powers of the world and we have now a long and honorable series of agreements for the settlement of international disputes. The United States was a party to the Hague Convention and it joined in establishing the Hague Tribunal. In 1909, this country participated in the London Conference and approved its work; a conference that was called and held for the purpose of civilizing, clarifying and simplifying the law of nations. I am saying these things not because anyone has specifically denied them, but because it is helpful just now to remember that there is an internationalism which is not only in harmony with the most exalted spirit of nationalism but which supplements and strengthens that national power which every self-respecting government must exercise for itself. It must be clear to every thoughtful person
that there must be in a world like ours, where an increasing intimacy among nations has been brought about by the genius of invention, the imperative demands of commerce, the drifting tides of population; and, with the constantly growing opportunities of conflict and controversy, a developing internationalism that will meet successfully conditions as they change from year to year. It is not my purpose to enlarge upon this thought or to expand my observations by a more specific recital of the history of mankind, and I mention it simply that you may have it in mind as I turn my attention to the immediate subject which is now uppermost in all discussion throughout the civilized world.

It is my belief that the close of the unparalleled conflict in which we have been engaged presents the most favorable opportunity that we ever have had or that is likely to occur in years and years to come to do something that will be a distinct advance toward preventing war in the future. I do not believe that treaties with this object in view should precede the settlement of the terms of peace which are to be imposed upon
an immaterial matter, inasmuch as the United States ceases to be distinct, and that the executive council or the body of delegates has the same tender consideration for all parts of its world-wide domain.

Mr. President, I do not ignore the deep anxiety which the President as the spokesman for this instrument feels for the laboring people of the world, and his keen desire to see that full justice is done to the people, and I quote him, "who go to bed tired and wake up without the stimulation of lively hope". They understand their wrongs and they are moving to correct them. Sometimes in the best way, sometimes in the poorest way. They need no such League of Nations to assert their rights. They have always been strong enough to do it here, and now they are powerful enough to do it everywhere. Just what will come from the turmoil through which the world is now passing God only knows, but we can fervently hope that from the conflict justice to every human being will emerge; but a polyglot and incoherent power imposed upon this mass of conflicting and
irreconcilable aspiration will do more to plunge all mankind into continual strife than any plan that can be conceived.

The President repeats over and over again that we must accept our responsibility in world work and I agree with him. I am no advocate of isolation. It seems plain to me, however, that the chief contribution to peace and good order at this time is to meet boldly and to solve wisely for ourselves the one mighty question which is tearing Europe asunder and which is advancing upon us with terrific force. If we cannot show the world by our own example that the workingman can get more justice, more happiness, more comfort under a reconstructed system of individual industrial activity than he can secure through complete socialism the world will try the experiment, and, from my standpoint, with the most disastrous results to civilization.

We ought now to be bending all our energies upon the vital subject of reconstruction, and this should be our immediate contribution to the welfare of humanity.