Notes: Autobiography, Women and war

Tarbell, Ida M.

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Autobiography: Women and War

I think I might begin this chapter with the story of Hoover. His saying to me that it was the only book he point had at some / in Belgium. In the Hotel where he was was my better Life of Lincoln and he thought how much I could have done my work if I had lived through a war.

My first consciousness of war was something of the beginning, the elements, the struggle somewhere outside of the field, the realization that the cause lies always decades back. All this began with my Life of Lincoln and I remember how often I thought, I would give ten years of my life if I could have lived through the Civil War. A study of Napoleon's military campaigns which fascinated me as great works of art - my first realization what a battle was - my realization of the long causes and the political and ethical struggles outside of the battle field, more important they seemed to me than the battle field in the Civil War, left me without any feeling of responsibility - something to be done to prevent war. I think I took it more or a less as visitation.

Repeat here impression on my Chautauqua trip.

(See Atlantic article)

But before that there had come the experience in California at Palo Alto and Dr. Gordon. Here make sketch of Dr. Gordon and my trip with him, how paralyzed I was, how big cause against the war loomed and how inadequate I felt and was. (Story of the dinner club talk - a case against war, and my feeling of humiliation) Quote Tom Lamont
The coming of the World War. What I saw on the road.

(Atlantic article comes in here) The night in Iowa - Junction Town - when the news that we had gone into the War came. The shock of the Lusitania at the Farm, and walked the road. Dinner at Daniels - President Wilson's talk. He had the sense from the study of history that what precipitates a war is a match we might wake up any morning and find ourselves at war - that is the match had been struck, as it was struck at Sumter in '61. All the faggots were laid, already for the match.

The Peace Conference - the Disarmament Conference.

War and advertising like the Peace Ship. War and petitions. Needs are at the bottom of it - countries must feed The notion that only greed and fear cause wars. Nothing more obvious than the danger points at the Peace Conference were Italy and Japan and nothing more obvious than that the strong intended to close their ears to these needs, force them to be contented, to be weak, half starved. Let them practice birth control. These mechanistic devices, contrary to the nature of people, contrary to their ambitions and their sense of their right as people as men and women were offered instead of of the fundamental things - to get rid of the basic problem - close your mind to it.

I think I may make a paragraph on the defeat: in my undertaking of the case against war and refer to the Black Mountains where I sat so disconsolately at the time of my first revolt.