Memorandum: Chapter on Peace Conference

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Memo for Chapter on Peace Conference:

Shotwell's
Looking over James T. "At the Paris Peace Conference" had I find what I had forgotten, that I/at least a couple of interviews with him on the Labor Conference. He mentions our lunching together and he giving me material. It all comes back to me now, the way I seized on the Labor Conference as a concrete thing that was going to come out of the confusion. It interested me on to pick up there the subject/which I had been working so much before the War. It seemed very odd I remember to be seeing Mr. Gompers and other labor men I knew more or less around the Paris streets. And one day as I walked down through the garden of the Tuileries I ran on to Mary Anderson and Rose Schneiderman. They had just come over, a little late for the Conference, but glad enough to find that so much was doing to bring about some kind of an international organization. What was done was undoubtedly do to his Shotwell's engineering and his sympathy and/good sense. At any rate it was the first really concrete thing that made me feel that the Peace Conference was getting somewhere.

This book of Chartres' brings back to me, too, how many Americans I have known from other times, how many people I have known in my days in Paris I was seeing. There was Steed, a very great personage now - the editor of the London Times and his "Monsieur". It was at his table I met Monsieur Deen. I tried to capture some of the old comrades that we had by inviting Seignorbos and Marillier and Louis and Steed and Madam Rose to lunch, but somehow it did not go off. Too much blood had run under the bridge.
And Shotwell's book recalls to me how incessantly one dined and lunched with this or that person. You were always meeting people for one reason or another, largely because being an American journalist you might perhaps see something for their cause. Most touching of my relations was with an Armenian delegation at the Hotel. I was with one of the most beautiful women I had ever seen in this group and with a look of desperate tragedy in her eyes. They were only too glad to have my interest, for what they were hoping above all that the United States would take the mandate for Armenia. It is possible that if the United States had gone in we would have taken the Armenians mandate. This delegation was doing all it could to persuade the Americans. They were soon feeling as that it meant to help them... so many in Paris for special causes were feeling that they were pushed aside to please their petitions and memoranda lost in the immense accumulation, complex confusion. Chartres tells the story of Balfour, throwing the memoranda of the Armenians in the corner and shouting not to bring him another while he was at the Conference, that he knew all he wanted to know about all these causes and that he wouldn't read any more memoranda.

(April 5. S. met Seppins at lunch. 24.4.1919)

Seignobos is a little old man, talking fast and furiously, very well satisfied with our labor business, which he seems to hold in higher regard than we do.

P. 247

James T. Shotwell "At the Peace Conference"