Digital Image, 2013. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

For Whom Shall I Vote for President?

As I see it, the present out-stripping duty of the United States is to become at once an active partner in the League of Nations, as it appears in the treaty of Versailles. This is not saying that the United States should take this step without frankly stating the interpretations it puts on the covenant or without making clear any reservations which it may feel will be necessary thoroughly to safeguard national interests. It does mean that I believe we should join the League as it now is and take a man's part in correcting it as its weaknesses and dangers develop. This is what we are doing and have from the start been doing with out Constitution. It is what every nation does and must do with its form of government. The League is the boldest, the most inclusive and the most carefully constructed scheme for organizing the world for peace which men have yet attempted. It provides for international action--in limiting armaments, in spreading knowledge of understandings and treaties between all member nations, in arbitrating differences, in developing a court of international law, in stabilizing and regulating economic and labor conditions, in controlling disease, and in making

universal the humanitarian work of the Red Cross. All of these noble activities, looking to a more orderly and peaceful world, have already been organized and the work of several of them is far advanced. For this nation to withdraw from an international undertaking devoted to such purposes is to prove false to the principles on which it is founded and to the highest ideals which it professes. The League offers the best chance to further peace and goodwill which is now before the nations of the world. Refusing to join is to delay in proportion to our position in the world these great objects.

Moreover, as I see it, there is no issue before this country today--high cost of living, unfair distribution of wealth, bringing industry up from a military to a peace basis, profiteering--nothing but which can be tackled regardless of world's conditions. To deal with our national problems with any hope of success we must first help put in operation the international machinery for dealing with international problems.

Seeing things in this way, there is but once place where I can put my vote--that is for the Democratic nominees, Cox and Roosevelt.

Digital Image, 2013. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library