June 29, 1920

My dear Colonel Grenfell:

Your letter of June 4 has just reached me, and I hope you will forgive a typewritten answer. I am having a little trouble with my right hand.

It is very good of you to send me "Lord Randolph Churchill," and I shall be glad to read it as soon as I receive it. The above address will find me.

It doesn't seem possible that over a year has passed since we landed from the "Noordam." It has been a year of labor for me. I went immediately to the Northwest for three months on what we call here a Chautauqua Circuit, speaking for the League of Nations. Then, in the Fall, I was called to Washington for the President's first Industrial Conference, and this Winter I went off again across country for three months, talking on the League and on industrial matters. It has been hard and lonesome work, and I am glad to be back at my desk, with a hope of being able to stay there pretty closely now, at the only work which I know even a little about, and that is, writing.

Talking and writing seem hopeless enough to me in the general atmosphere of dissatisfaction and complaint that envelops the country. Everybody blames everybody else, and we don't any of us seem to be able to get our fingers on the real causes of it all. I attribute it to war, the inevitable price we must pay. There are signs that we are slowly getting our senses.

You speak of the demands of labor on your side,--they are paralleled here. We have never seen anything like it, never so large a number whose chief business seemed to be struggling for more money, and who at the same time were unwilling to give a fair return. Whether the forces of order will be stronger than those of disorder is not quite clear now. I am rather hopeful. We are badly upset by our Presidential campaign, and I don't see much hope at the present moment of getting any very satisfactory executive. The most satisfactory part, even if we get a poor one, is that the election is over and that we can settle down to work more generally than we can at the moment.

I am humiliated beyond measure by what we have done with the peace treaty and the League, but feel pretty certain that, the election over, congress will hasten to ratify--probably with amendments to the League but not very offensive or really embarrassing.

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(Col. Grenfell 2)

I never appreciated so much the value of England to this rioteus world as I do at the moment. Where we would be if it was not for her steadiness, I dare not think. If the League is held together for the next few months it will be England that will have to do it. Within a year or so I think she can count on our help.

I am sending you by this mail a book of mine published several years ago, on our experience since the Civil War, with the tariff. If you have an outbreak of protectionism, there may be some things that will be useful.

Very sincerely yours,

Colonel Cecil Grenfell,
4 Great Cumberland Place,
London, W.1

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