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June 4, 1918.

Miss Mary E. Gearing,
University of Texas,
Austin, Texas.

My dear Miss Gearing:-

I have been much interested in your plans for a War College Week. Its possibilities it seems to me, are very great. Of course, from what you told me of your plans, I have no doubt at all, that you are offering information, suggestions and stimulus which will be of immense value to every man and woman that is taking his obligation seriously at this time.

One very important thing that a week of this kind should accomplish in my judgment is, to clear up the uncertainty that is in the minds of a great many loyal people about what they personally can do. It is not enough to live on just as we have been doing, and yet I fear that there are many who still think that that is all that is possible under their circumstances. Your war week ought to relate the activities of the daily life at home to the War Programme in a definite unmistakable way. It can't do that unless you can make the people feel the tremendous seriousness of our situation, the size of the thing that we have undertaken, the probable duration of it, the almost incalculable sacrifice that we are going to be called upon to make.

You have got to show people how, in order to handle this thing, everybody must get into it, relate themselves to it. We can never handle the food situation unless everybody does his part, we cannot furnish the funds unless everybody does his share of saving and giving. If you can make everybody that comes to Austin for this War Week, feel this thing as his personal position, and that is what it is, and send him back home ready to give his wheat and his leisure, to wear his old hat and go without some coveted luxuries, you will have done the great thing. This is our war, every man's and every woman's, and it is going to be won by individual sacrifice and devotion.

Miss G--2

I take it that your programme will be full of practical plans for how to discharge individual obligation, particularly in regard to food and thrift and courage. You ought to send out a host of Crusaders.

We must not forget for a moment, that for every one woman in Texas that can come, even by sacrifice to Austin, there are hundreds that cannot come. These are the people that must be reached and taught, and you will do a great thing for the war, if you can send back all who come to you to learn, full of enthusiastical determination to carry to their neighbors what they have found.

It is a great idea, this War College Week. I wish I were going to have the advantage of it, but since I cannot, all that I can wish is, that it be so successful that all that are there will cry for its repetition next year and every year, as long as the war lasts.

Faithfully yours,

E.C.