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Watertown Times - December 29, 1923

Young Leaves with Open Mind.

"The thing I want to know first," said Mr. Young is an interview with the New York World on the eve of his departure, "is the point of view of the men we are to be associated with, the attitude of these men as it reflects the point of view of their respective nations. I want to know the plans they have in mind and what they propose to do.

"It would be wholly unwise and presumptuous, I think, for Americans to come in with any preconceived plan of our own. The less the American representatives get lost in the underbrush of all these so-called 'facts' the better.

"I regard the questions to be considered by our committee as business questions only and I hope they will be approached in that spirit, with a determination to get a constructive answer speedily. The need for speed is not so much because business suffers so long as they remain unanswered, but because human beings suffer.

"The productive margins in civilized society are none too great at best, whether measured by their contribution to the wealth of the world, to the scientific investigation of the world, to the art of the world, or to any of the other things that make life worth living. Any situation which paralyzes these contributions and substitutes human suffering for human production calls for prompt rescue through the effective co-operation of all peoples everywhere."

Water town Times - December 29, 1923 (Continued)

"It will be tremendously interesting," Mr. Young remarked to me this week. "I really don't know any better than you do whether we are likely to accomplish much or little or nothing. I see myself referred to in the newspapers as an 'expert.' I am not an expert at anything. As you know I practiced law for years and had a good deal to do with rather important business affairs before I became connected with the General Electric Company. I don't look upon myself as an expert at all, but simply as an American citizen who is willing and anxious to undertake to the best of my humble ability duties which have come to me in a way that could not possibly be side-stepped. I regard our mission as one of the very greatest important to this country as well as the world at large.