Chapter XVI: Women and War

It showed what the Women's Committee looking back on it now had done. It aided in a larger degree than it realized in steming that destruction of standards for labor, for children, which both Jane Addams and those associated with her had worked so long and so intelligently. We came out with a larger equipment than when we went in - gardening and canning, preservation of fruits and foods, were spread widely over a country that in its turning to industrialism was losing skill of great value. The general turning during the depression to these old crafts by those out of work could in many places, I am convinced, be traced to the experiences of the war and in those experiences the Women's Committee had been stimulating every educational factor.

Labor came out of the war better than it went in. It had been aggressive and had agressively fought to preserve its standards, to increase its wages, to preserve its hours. A multitude of new factories had been born over night - ship yards, steel mills, munition factories - everything that was essential for war use. Not always to be sure, but in many pleaces had been conducted on higher lines. One thing that brought this about was the new science of management made for efficiency, and efficiency in production was the great need of the day, but efficiency according to Mr. Taylor required both right conditions and co-operation of labor and leadership so that many of the new factories were conducted on higher lines, they were than accumstomed. There was an

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effort in factories where women were used to make conditions tolerable. After the war I spent considerable time going about in various parts of the country seeing just what was left of the invasion of women. My particular point was to find if there were any women that/out of choice were staying by the machines, rather than going back to the usual pursuits of women. I have always had a theory that now and then there was a mechanically-minded woman. I found I was right. There were women who had made themselves so valuable that they were kept on. As for today I do not know. My factory visiting has been over for many years now, but four years after the war women who had gone into factories to help win the war were staying on, clinging to their jobs because they liked them. And the conditions under which they worked had been made more tolerable for them than they had probably been for men before the war, so that the men came back to improved conditions. I have no way of measuring but it was to be observed in certain places, is certain that.

Miss Addams fear of distruction of all the good that had been obtained in these fields was not justified.

Men and women who answered the cry to win the war were willing to sacrifice themselves. There were many who felt the need of sacrifice and wanted to suffer as their men were suffering on the other side, wanted the other side to know they were taking part in the general distruction. They, too, were giving up something. Women particularly were willing under the blow of what is called patriotism to work twelve hours and they did it in some plaees and would have done it everywhere if it had been necessary.

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