Chapter XVIII: (The End)

The close of the War found me for the first time in twenty years without stabile editorial connections. I decided that I preferred freedom to carry out plans for writing in my mind rather than tying myself up to any position opened to me. A decision which I have never changed, that is for seventeen years I have been on my own.

The final Chapter takes up two National and one Inter-national Conference which I followed as a member, or an observer, in 1919, 1921 and 1922. The first of these Conferences was known as the President's First Industrial Conference. Here I was a member of the public group and I am telling briefly the story of its tragic failure.

I was also a member of President Harding's Unemployment Conference which laid out a plan for handling depressions. If this plan had been followed by President Hoover, the Chairman of the Conference, and later by President Roosevelt it would, I believe, have done much to ease the slump and to have distributed more equitably the expense of caring for the unemployed.

In these seventeen years I have published some eight books on subjects which I had handled in the years I was connected with McClure's and The American magazine. Of these I speak briefly confining myself chiefly to the personalities

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connected with the work.

I have probably covered as much ground in journalistic work unsuited I think for book publication. My most exciting journalistic adventure was four months in Italy in 1926 studying the Corporate State. This includes an interview with Mussolini - never published in full - and some impressions of the extraordinary working habits of the people, that is extraordinary from the American point of view.

I want to cover, too, a few experiences which came to me in the course of Lyceum work which for ten years I carried on regularly as a side-line to my regular profession. It was my observations on these lecture trips which took me into every State in the Union except two, that turned me against prohibition as a practical temperance measure.

I am winding up the Chapter with a few reflections on the adventure of old age, several years of the work described having been carried on beyond the three score ten limit.

This chapter is practically written but I am finding difficulty in condensing it into any reasonable limit. I hope to have it done within the next fortnight.

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