

February 25, 1932

Mr. Albert Boyden
Ropes, Gray, Boyden & Perkins
50 Federal Street
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Boyden:

May I ask your help in straightening out a conflict of dates into which I have run in working out a short sketch of Owen D. Young's career? This is it:-

I want to know when Roland Boyden first suggested to Secretary of State Hughes the appointment by the Reparations Commission of a committee of business men and financiers to work out a plan for stabilizing Germany.

Secretary Hughes did make such a suggestion at a meeting of the American Historical Association on December 29, 1922. When Mr. Young went to Europe he had among his papers, so his assistant tells me, a document of Roland Boyden in which he said that he had been urging an Experts Committee on Mr. Hughes for some time. I recall Bert's showing me along about this time a letter from Roland Boyden suggesting that business men would have to settle the Reparations problem.

Irving Bush who was then the Chairman of the New York Chamber of Commerce carried on a rather lively correspondence in 1922 in which he urged, "An International Conference of World's Business Men." In October 1922 an article from him calling for such a conference was published by the Hearst papers.

What I want is to fix Roland Boyden's relation to the matter. So far as I can judge he was the first to make the suggestion that the committee be appointed by the Reparations Commission.

I hear from Martha Finley that you have charge of Roland Boyden's papers and she thought that you might be able to put your hands on an answer to my question without over-much trouble. That I would not ask you to take.

I hope, dear Mr. Boyden, that you yourself are in good health. I have deeply sympathized with you all in the heavy loss that Roland Boyden's going must be. I had only the slightest acquaintance with him but it was an acquaintance extending over many years and like everybody that knew him at all I had the greatest admiration for his sound judgment and his persistent devotion to the things to which he put his hands. Everybody is the loser by his death but to no-one is it so great a loss as to those that were near him - his family and friends.

Trusting I am not imposing upon your goodwill in asking your help in straightening out this matter of dates, believe me

Very sincerely yours