

Private

draft
of
12/15/14

2 Government House, London. Dec 15. 1914

AL/1096

My dear Mr. Catt,

Shop
3
Quill

Many thanks for your letter of Nov 30. I think affairs at 7 Adam Street are settling down satisfactorily. We are aware of Miss Sheepshanks' strong points and also of her defects as regards office organization. Our typist who was engaged in the place of Miss Ford is very successful in her work and is much liked. She has a good knowledge of French & German which is of course important in an International office.

The relations between Mr. Coit & Miss Sheepshanks have been a good deal strained but have already improved & I hope will improve still more. A great deal

was due in my opinion to the very crowded condition
of the office during the great mess of the relief
work. People were running up affairs in another;
a dozen different pieces of business were being
transacted in the same room at the same time,
the telephone bell was constantly ringing; you can
imagine the result in nervous tension & exas-
peration. These very trying conditions are no
longer acute owing to the measure of relief
work having been very largely diminished.
I had a long talk yesterday with Mrs. Coit; she
fully appreciated Miss Sheepshanks' strong points
and all I am sure loyally co-operate with
her & help her all she can.

My Auntal Macmillan is sending round a letter

to the I.W.S.A. Officers & Presidents urging them

to press you to call ^{in April next} one or other of the following:-

1. An I.W.S.A. ^{convention} ~~conference~~ in 1915

2. A convention of the I.W.S.A. in 1915, ^{to which} ~~to which~~ ^{representatives of other women's international & National Societies} should also be summoned

3. Individual international women might summon such a combined convention, ~~also in 1915~~

All of these 1, 2 & 3 ^{My Auntal Macmillan urges} should be invited to discuss

the principles on which peace should be made & if agreed, to act internationally

I am strongly opposed ^{all} to the above proposals, mainly for the reason that women are

as subject as men are to national representation

X

and susceptibilities and it would hardly be possible to bring together the women of the belligerent countries without violent outbursts of anger and mutual recriminations.

We should then run the risk of the scandal of a Peace Congress, ^{& perhaps broken up} disturbed by violent quarrels, and fierce denunciations. It is true this often

takes place at ^{and then} Socialist ^{international} meetings: but it is of less importance than we expect ^{in general meetings of} Socialist ^{men} men.

But a Peace Congress of women dissolved by violent quarrels would be the laughing stock of the world.

It would be impossible to discuss the principles on which Peace should be made without discussing

Al/1096 cont

the causes of ~~the~~ war: the value or otherwise of
arbitration and international treaties, and these
could not be discussed without trespassing in the
question why in the past treaties have not
been observed - Prussia's pledge, for instance,
to observe the neutrality of Belgium - &
there are here all the elements of a furious
discussion & quarrel.

I give another example: -
~~I also feel that women in common with the~~
~~rest of the general public~~
Since ^{I heard lately in good authority,} ~~when my shopmate was in Holland~~
and Adèle Jacob told her she had heard
recently from Elsa Luchers who had
complacently remarked how much for
the welfare of her would be the victory of

Germany would prove because it would enable
Germany to impose her culture upon all
the other nations of the world. Helga Jacob
was furious: here you have an example of
the sort of thing that ~~could~~^{might} happen during
every day & hour of the proposed inter-
national congress.

You will understand I am sure that I
make no complaint against Miss Macmillan
and have very much to her opinion; and ^{indeed} makes
it quite clear in her letter that she
writes for herself alone.

I feel so strongly against the proposed
convention that I would decline to
attend it, and if necessary would resign
my office in the I. W. S. A. if it were
judged incumbent on me in that capacity
to take part in the convention.

This is not at all a nice Christmas letter
but our dear dear Mrs. Call has cordially
and affectionately I think of you & relies
on your leadership

Always your affectionately
M. S. Fawcett