

[Lady Osler to Mrs. Chapin]

[Oxford]

Sept. 29th [1919]

Dear Sister

I have posted a letter to Canton And although the P.O. has a notice out asking one not to write letters - I really Must start one to you because I feel that you understand so well about the Situation. Were you here you would be on the alert to fight it out just as Everyone is - What do you think? Our beloved old Smith the Inspector at the Station wont "go out". Is there and helping the Volunteer workers in Every way. He says the Strikers are quite mad. Even the Northcliffe papers that have been down on the Government - say Generous offers were Made and the Strikers are in the Wrong. You Cant Imagine how Wonderful the arrangements are and already trains are being run by volunteers. Only one a day from here. Aeroplanes are in full swing - bring newspapers. Huge lorries dashing through with Every Kind of provision. Hyde Park is the Base for Milk Supply of London & thousands of lorries are bringing Milk to London. Pictures in the Paper today - brought by Aeroplane - Show Gentlemen helping in Hyde Park - loading & unloading those huge Cans - Archie came Friday afternoon for Sunday & is still here - Bill could not get here. Willie left Edinburgh Friday night at 10 PM in sleeping berth - When he awoke 7 A M he Was at Newcastle Saturday Morning. The crowd was terrific, he could get no motor - so went to see a doctor friend who offered to borrow one from a friend - which he took - leaving Newcastle at 11 a m Sat & reaching here at 3 Sunday - Slept in an old *Den* some where and arrived With an Awful cold in his head & is now in bed trying to stop it. The motor was old & slow but got him home thank Heaven He telephoned En route so I did not worry or pretended not to - I have my passport and Everything ready for Flanders & was going this week - but of course cannot Now. Goodness Knows how long this will go on. Lizzie is in Birmingham & Cant get back -

Four Char à bancs have left Carfax for London today & *returning* "Carfax to Marble Arch" I thought so many times yesterday how you would have been detained in London & would have been all over the place seeing Everything. The Gordon Oslers with their daughter coming to School are due at Southampton today on the Adriatic - I have telephoned Bob to have Andrews meet them. The trouble is - the Government has Swooped down on all Petrol from Garages. Took 700 gals from Morris Saturday. Our Car is at the Painters - We have some petrol Saved up - but suppose One Must give it up. I had to give the man 17 Gals to get back to Newcastle 282 miles. A letter from Ned today Written on the 11th - I had one last Friday Written on the 17th He said John was on duty. & you waiting for the twins - I had a letter from Marion Wright after she had seen you & been in Boston - seemed really better & so pleased about Phoebe's surroundings. I hope she will soon be with Jean & that will do her more good than anything. I hope to hear from you by the Adriatic & about your Strike. What a world! Where is the Peace? Poor Lloyd George had a tooth ache Friday during the Conference with the Strikers - & I felt so sorry for him. Mr Wilson pegged out too !! Martin Van Buren talked so horribly about Mr. Wilson, I felt hopeless to try to offer the least opinion for or against. He calls him the Devil Incarnate - Really I cant see how a man dares express such views - & that man a Miserable loafer. We are rationed Closer than Ever - 1 lb of Meat a week - at least it says 1/8 worth - & beef & mutton are 1/8 per pound. 1 ounce butter - 2 Margarine 2 sugar - & very little bread this time No one is grumbling yet. Every one Knows how to Meet it Now. I wonder what

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America Would do. If course fish will stop as it Cant be brought, at least not enough - or safely. I cant send to Jackson for anything as no parcels are allowed. Luckily I have the cream of wheat.

Sunday 30th

Things looking better this morning. Gorgeous weather is a Great help -

Much love

Grace.