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Paris
August 7, 1917

Dear Dr. Rose:

This is simply a note preceding a fuller statement to let you know that we are on the ground and very busily at work.

As the situation develops it is even more complicated than we knew but on the other hand offers even more possibilities than were evident and I feel sure that we shall be able to accomplish something worth while and in all probability work out a plan on a large scale. The need is appalling but we are uncovering work that is of first class quality, though on a small scale, which will be first rate material upon which to build. Everyone has been most kind and cooperative. The officials have given us every assistance and we are rapidly getting our ideas in order. We shall necessarily move slowly but some of the steps are already clear and I hope to send you in a few days a tentative budget and plan for the next few months.

The mechanical and physical difficulties are indescribable. Offices, stenographers, supplies etc. are obtained with the greatest difficulty. We have engaged a few rooms in a little hotel for the next month to use as offices until we see our way more clearly. Free office room is out of the question. The coming of the Americans and the development of the war has put everything at a premium and the French government itself is engaging space outside for its own purposes. I shall probably have to cable you to negotiate certain office assistance for us but not for a few weeks.

Messrs. Gunn and Drolet and Miss Crowell arrived safely and we shall soon be in working order. The relations with the Red Cross could not be better. Mr. Folks has assumed charge of all their civil problems (including tuberculosis) and has won their confidence completely.

Dr. Miller has taken hold with his customary energy and has certain plans already well worked out for Paris. He and I are inspecting conditions as rapidly as possible and during the next fortnight shall go over one of the most complex districts including Lyons and the south eastern front of France. We went over the conditions in Brittany as a special rural problem last week.

Incidentally, we are all very well physically. Folks, Miller, Place, Dr. White and I have taken an apartment and are keeping house. My family is spending the month on the Seashore near Bordeaux pending developments.

Living is very much hampered by restrictions of all sorts but I have no doubt we shall make out successfully.

As I said above this is more in the nature of a personal letter to let you hear that the beginning of our campaign seems conspicuous in all essential ways and we are optimistic. We have not yet been able to find a stenographer but have hopes.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Livingston Farrand

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Paris
WR AUG 23 WR 8/27 ✓
August 7 - 1917

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