



12-6-1918

## Letter From William H. Zinsser to Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson, December 6, 1918

William H. Zinsser

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### Recommended Citation

Zinsser, William H., "Letter From William H. Zinsser to Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson, December 6, 1918" (1918). *World War I Era Documents, 1914-1918*. 113.

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WAR DEPARTMENT  
COMMISSION ON TRAINING CAMP ACTIVITIES  
WASHINGTON

SOCIAL HYGIENE DIVISION  
SECTION ON MEN'S WORK

THE ACTIVITIES OF THIS SECTION WERE FORMERLY  
CARRIED ON AS A PART OF THE WORK OF THE COM-  
MITTEE FOR CIVILIAN COOPERATION IN COMBATING  
VENEREAL DISEASES, COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE.

105 West 40th Street  
New York, Dec. 6th, 1918

Mr. Huntington Wilson  
c/o Public Ledger  
Independent Square  
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Mr. Wilson:

It is almost a year since I wrote you last and perhaps you will be surprised that I have the gumption to write you at all. When I tell you, however, that I am but a wheel within a wheel and that I regretted tremendously that you and your plan never received great attention at Washington and that the plan was probably never put into effect (although I may be wrong) I am sure you will know that I am sincere.

I know on the other hand that you will be tremendously glad to hear that we have made a great deal of progress in the year just closing, previous to our demobilization, and for this reason I am going to send you under separate cover a complete set of our literature.

You probably received from me the other day one of our circular letters, emphasizing the even greater need of this work for the moment and containing an overseas suggestion which we hope the majority of our 35,000 correspondents, since August 1917, will adopt. You probably remember meeting Lieutenant Wiseman here. He is the author of the "Father" and "Mother" letters which I think are particularly well done. They are about the only samples of our work, issued since we started, where we do not really mention the subject of venereal disease or prostitution. We did this because we had a larger plan in mind, which is going into effect, and about which everyone is tremendously enthusiastic. That plan was to interest the newspapers all over the country and we have spent a great deal of money furthering it.

I am enclosing herewith a sheet which has been sent your newspaper and every other in the country, giving the details of the plan, and thus, for the first time, linking up the civilians here with the army overseas' program. In other words, we seek the same civilian cooperation we sought on this side of the water before the armistice was declared, to protect our boys in camps and to keep them fit to fight. We are asking them to help us bring them back from

ADDRESS REPLY TO 105 WEST 40TH STREET, NEW YORK

-2- Mr. Huntington Wilson

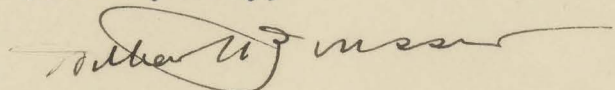
Dec. 6th, 1918

overseas by the home touch and the necessary **diplomatic** warnings at this very susceptible time for them.

I should be very much interested in learning what you and the Public Ledger think of the idea and at the same time I do hope, when you are in New York again, you will not think us unworthy of a call, because we have grown into some very large quarters, have some work that is going to interest you intensely, as I believe my other enclosure will show, and because we want to meet and talk this over with you and tell you what has been done before we demobilize and go back to our civil situations.

With very kind regards, I am

Yoursvery truly,



W H Zinsser/BAM

Director

Enc. Social Hygiene and the War  
Newspaper page.

Under separate cover:  
Clean Communities  
Your Side of the Fight  
Industrial Program.

